

LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 25 MAY 2023

Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 25 May 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Cassidy (for Clocherty), Crowther, Daisley, Law, McGuire, Moran, Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources
Hugh Scott	Service Manager Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Roisin Dillon	Trading Standards and Enforcement Team Leader
Jim Kerr	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
George Barbour	Service Manager, Communication, Tourism and Health & Safety

In attendance also:

Lorna Gibson	Superintendent, Partnerships, Preventions and Interventions Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, Police Scotland
Damien Kane	Chief Inspector, Area Commander, Inverclyde, Police Scotland
Mark McLennan	Detective Superintendent, Specialist Crime Division, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, Police Scotland
Amanda Cairns	Detective Superintendent, Public Protection Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Unit, Dalmarnock, Police Scotland
Derek Middleton	Intelligence Support Analysis and Performance, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, Police Scotland
David McCarrey	Area Commander, Service Delivery, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde
Paul Storrie	Area Group Commander Prevention and Protection, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Crowther, Law, McGuire and Reynolds attending remotely.

Prior to the commencement of business the Convener welcomed the representatives from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Services to the meeting.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Panel.

315 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Clocherty, with Councillor Cassidy substituting.

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No declarations of interest were intimated.

316 Presentation on Violence against Women and Girls Strategy**316**

The Panel heard a presentation by Detective Superintendent A Cairns providing a national overview of Police Scotland's Violence against Women and Girls Strategy and highlighting the work of Police Scotland's Public Protection Domestic Abuse Co-Ordination Unit. Detective Superintendent M McLennan provided an overview of the Strategy from a local perspective. Thereafter Detective Superintendent McLennan answered a number of questions from Members.

Decided: that the information contained in the presentation be noted.

Prior to discussion on the following item, Superintendent Gibson acknowledged the public statement made earlier that day by Chief Constable Sir Iain Livingstone stating that institutional racism, sexism, misogyny and discrimination exist within Police Scotland. Superintendent Gibson advised that, as the statement had been made so recently, there would be a period of reflection on the content.

317 Police Scotland Performance Report**317**

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2022 to 28 February 2023. During the course of discussion on this item Chief Inspector Kane referred to the increase in relation to housebreaking crimes on the previous year. It was noted that acquisitive crime targeting motor vehicles had also risen on the previous years, specifically motor vehicles with catalytic converters. Chief Inspector Kane advised that members of the public can be referred to Police Scotland's website for safeguarding advice. It was also noted that a range of online frauds and attempted fraud methods have been reported in Inverclyde. Chief Inspector Kane advised Members that Police Scotland is working with a number of partners on the Shut-Out Scammers campaign to signpost the public to relevant advice and support services and is also targeting the younger generation by using social media campaigns. It was noted that the number of drug deaths continues to be significant in Inverclyde. Chief Inspector Kane reported that 14 people have been reported to the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service in relation to drug dealing crimes. He further advised that 70% of local Police Officers are now carrying Naloxone.

Councillor McGuire left the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

Decided: that the information contained in the report be noted.

318 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report**318**

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023. During discussion on this item it was reported that there was a slight increase in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents compared to this time last year, noting there has been a decrease from the last quarter. Group Commander Storrie informed Members that with the implementation of the new UFAS approach on 1 July 2023 it was anticipated that there would be a significant reduction on these calls, which will provide valuable daytime capacity for additional firefighter and community safety activities. He further advised that the Spring Tactical Action Plan will focus on wilful and deliberate fire setting and the community action team will deliver engagement sessions to schools.

Decided: that the information contained in the report be noted.

319 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report**319**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development providing an update on current and emerging issues relating to Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Services.

Decided:

(1) that the updates on the following matters be noted (a) the Scottish Police Authority partnership agreement with COSLA, (b) Draft Budget 2023-24, (c) 'Is that Me' Campaign, (d) Local Authority engagement, (e) drink and drug driving update, (f) Mental Health in policing conference, (g) Police Scotland Violence Against Women Strategy, (h) collaboration between Local Government and Policing (i) Local Police Plans – A Framework in Scrutiny and (j) Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Pay Offer.