

## LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 6 FEBRUARY 2025

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### Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 6 February 2025 at 3pm

**Present:** Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Crowther, Daisley, Hellyer, Jackson (for Clocherty), Reynolds and Wilson.

**Chair:** Councillor Wilson presided.

**In attendance:**

Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources (for Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development)
Hugh Scott	Service Manager Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Martin McNab	Public Protection Manager
Anne Sinclair	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Karen McVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader

**In attendance also:**

Rhona Fraser	Chief Superintendent, Local Police Commander, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
David Doherty	Chief Inspector, Area Commander, Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
Kevin Murphy	Area Commander, Service Delivery, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Daisley, Jackson and Reynolds attending remotely.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed to the meeting Chief Superintendent Rhona Fraser, the newly appointed Divisional Commander of K Division.

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

### **Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Law, Quinn and Clocherty with Councillor Jackson substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

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### Police Scotland Performance Report

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Prior to discussion on this item, Chief Superintendent Fraser acknowledged the recent incident that had taken place at the Mosque in Greenock and conveyed her thanks to partners and the community for their assistance. There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 31 October 2024. Members expressed concern about the number of hate crimes recorded in Inverclyde in the reporting period, the view was expressed that it would be beneficial to have information showing the comparison with the same period in the previous year. Chief Superintendent Fraser reported that in addition to the impact of new legislation, changes in methodology and counting rules arising from the new systems make comparisons with previous years challenging. It was noted that a Police Scotland spotlight report on this matter would be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel. During the course of discussion on this item, it was noted that race was the most commonly targeted protected characteristic in Inverclyde hate crime. The Chief Superintendent provided an overview of initiatives in place to promote awareness of hate crime, adding that information on the national campaign would be circulated to Members. Chief Inspector Doherty advised that Police Scotland officers from the Prevention and Intervention Team visited schools in the area last year to raise awareness of this matter and are scheduled to visit the main secondary schools in the coming months to deliver an upgraded initiative specifically targeting S4, S5, and S6 pupils. He also informed the Panel of his recent visit to Inverclyde Muslim Centre which was also attended by senior Inverclyde officials, where they met with representatives from the Mosque to provide reassurance and to demonstrate their support to the community.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the information contained in the report be noted; and
- (2) that a Police Scotland spotlight report on hate crime be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

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### Scottish Fire & Rescue Performance Report

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There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2024. Area Commander Murphy provided assurance and encouragement to safeguard the Inverclyde Community. During the course of discussion on this item Members were advised that there was a 79 % reduction on the year on year indicator for accidental dwelling fires with a 22 % reduction in the three year average indicator. It was noted that the statistics for deliberate fire setting for Inverclyde this reporting period shows a 45% reduction in the year on year indicator along with a 7% decrease in the three year average. Area Commander Murphy advised Members that the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service continue to engage with communities; targeting those most at risk of fire, conducting Home Fire Safety Visits and delivering fire safety education and advice.

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

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### Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Revised Home Fire Safety Visit Programme

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There was submitted a report by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service providing (1) an overview of the revised Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Home Fire Safety Visit programme and (2) details on how partner organisations can assist the service to make communities safer through the delivery of this key fire safety programme.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the information contained in the report be noted; and

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(2) that a further update report be submitted to the Panel in 12 months' time.

### 66 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & 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 Board, (b) COSLA/Local and Regional Scrutiny Engagement, (c) Mental Health Distress and Vulnerability, (d) Criminal Justice Committee pre-budget evidence session, (e) Force Mobilisation Model, (f) Pay Award 2024-25, (g) Police Estates Masterplan, (h) Police Scotland Domestic Abuse Campaign, (i) HMICS – Thematic Inspection of Road Policing in Scotland, (j) Scottish Fire & Rescue Service – Local Fire & Rescue Plans and (k) Inverclyde Fire Skills Course.