

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 27 MARCH 2025

Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 27 March 2025 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Daisley, Hellyer, Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

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| Ruth Binks | Corporate Director, Education, Communities & Organisational Development |
| Hugh Scott | Service Manager, Inclusive Communities |
| Martin McNab | Public Protection Manager |
| Roisin Dillon | Trading Standards and Enforcement Team Leader |
| Anne Sinclair | Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services) |
| Lindsay Carrick | Senior Committee Officer |
| Colin MacDonald | Senior Committee Officer |
| Siobhan MacMaster | Solicitor, Inverclyde Council |

In attendance also:

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| 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 |
| Rod Anderson | Group Commander, Prevention & Protection, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde |

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

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed the representatives from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.

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

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| 160 | Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | 160 |
| | An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Law. | |
| | No declarations of interest were intimated. | |
| 161 | Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Spotlight Report – Inverclyde Deliberate Fire Setting | 161 |

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There was submitted a report by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service providing details of deliberate fire incidents which the service attended within Inverclyde to date for 2024-2025. **Decided:** that the spotlight on deliberate fires in Inverclyde be noted.

162 Police Scotland Performance Report

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There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2024. During the course of discussion on this item Chief Superintendent Fraser advised that violent crime in Inverclyde has increased by 7.8% compared to the same period in 2023/24. It was noted that Inverclyde's most vulnerable communities continue to experience a disproportionate rate of violence, with nearly two-thirds of recorded violent crimes taking place in the top 10% most socioeconomically deprived areas. She further advised that the detection rate for violent crimes in Inverclyde in the reporting period was 69.3%, which was above the previous year's rate of 65.6%. Members raised concerns about the increase in violent crime. Chief Superintendent Fraser in response to the concerns confirmed that tackling violent crime remains a top priority for Police Scotland and provided assurance that initiatives are ongoing to assure people that Inverclyde is a safe place. It was noted that complaints regarding disorder in Inverclyde decreased by 11%. Chief Superintendent Fraser advised Members that tackling disorder and antisocial behaviour remains a key focus of the Inverclyde Partnership hub. It was noted that officers from Police Scotland's National Equity and Diversity Unit will present a spotlight report on Hate Crime at the next meeting of the Panel. There followed discussion on Police Scotland's estate master plan. Members raised concerns in relation to the delivery of the master plan for Greenock police station, with the aim being to create a modern, fit for purpose estate that best serves the needs of the community and policing. Chief Superintendent Fraser reported that necessary repairs have been completed at the station and offered Members the opportunity to visit the station. It was noted that a Police Scotland Estates meeting is to be arranged imminently, and an update will be provided to Members.

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

163 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 (1) providing an update on current and emerging issues relating to Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Services and (2) appending the draft response to the consultation on the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service draft strategy 2025-28 for approval.

Decided:

(1) that the updates on the following matters be noted (a) The Scottish Police Authority Board, (b) Police Officer Quarterly Strength Statistics: 31 December 2024, (c) Mental Health – Distress Framework for Collaboration: Multi-Agency Partnership Approach, (d) SFRS Draft Strategy 2025-28 Consultation, (e) Secondary School Domestic Abuse Resource, (f) Rechargeable Battery Fires Campaign and (g) SFRS Investment in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); and

(2) that the proposed response to the consultation on the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service draft strategy 2025-28 be approved for submission.