

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 5 JUNE 2025

Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 5 June 2025 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong (for Daisley), Cassidy, Clocherty, Crowther, Jackson (for Hellyer), Law, Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director, Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources
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
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer

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
Stewart Taylor	Estates Lead, Police Scotland
Adrian Rice	Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire & Inverclyde LSO Area
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 Law, Quinn and Reynolds attending remotely.

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

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

291 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

291

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Daisley with Councillor Armstrong substituting, Councillor Hellyer with Councillor Jackson substituting, Provost McKenzie and Councillor Brennan.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 5 JUNE 2025

292 Police Scotland Performance Report

292

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 28 February 2025, which compared figures with the same period in the previous year. During the course of discussion on this item, reference was made to the Police Estate in Inverclyde. Mr Stewart Taylor, Estates Lead for Police Scotland, provided an overview of the current position in relation to Greenock Police Station. He informed the Panel that Police Scotland is embarking on a significant piece of work following the development of the Estates Masterplan which will detail what is required over the next 10 years to modernise the policing estate and meet the needs of future policing in Greenock and the surrounding communities. Members expressed concerns regarding the 10-year timescale where Inverclyde sits in and the delay in publicising the outcome of the options appraisal that had taken place following the public consultation in March 2024. Mr Taylor answered a number of questions in relation to Members concerns and, he gave his assurance that Inverclyde is a priority and that the Panel would be advised of timelines and proposals for Greenock Police Station. Councillor Reynolds joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

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

293 Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Performance Report

293

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period Q4 2024/25. During discussion on this item Members expressed concerns about options being proposed to cut services in Inverclyde. Group Commander Anderson provided a summary of proposals namely (1) the permanent removal of an appliance which is already temporarily withdrawn from Inverclyde and (2) retaining the status quo with modifications to the duty system and crew. He informed the panel that the consultation on the proposals will commence at the end of June and will last for 12 weeks and that members of the public and officers of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service can participate. It was noted that there will be online and public engagement events taking place to gather feedback from the public. Thereafter Group Commander Anderson answered a number of questions by Members regarding their concerns. It was noted that the Scrutiny Panel will also have the opportunity to respond to the forthcoming consultation. Reference was made to the fire that had occurred recently at Pottery Street, Greenock. Scottish Fire & Rescue representatives were asked if it would be possible to provide an overview of the response to the fire within the report to the next Scrutiny Panel. Thanks were expressed to the emergency workers who were involved in the response to the incident, and this was echoed by the Convenor.

Decided:

- (1) that the information contained in the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to Scottish Fire & Rescue Service officers to include an overview of the response to the Pottery Street fire in the report to the next meeting.

294 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report

294

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.

Decided:

- (1) that the updates on the following matters be noted (a) The Scottish Police Authority Board, (b) New Joint Equality Outcomes Published, (c) Community Confidence Action Research – Final Report, (d) Supporting Opportunities for Life (SOL), (e) Mental Health Taskforce update, (f) Criminal Justice efficiencies, (g) Annual Police Plan 25/26, (h)

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National Roll Out of Body Worn Cameras, (i) Retail Crime Task Force, (j) Motorcycle Safety Campaign, (k) Proportionate Response to Crime Update, and (l) SFRS Wildfire Campaign 2025.