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**Report To:** Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee      **Date:** 29 November 2018

**Report By:** Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development      **Report No:** P & F/06/18/HS

**Contact Officer:** Hugh Scott      **Contact No:** 01475 715459

**Subject:** Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update Report (November 2018)

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee on current and emerging issues relating to Police and Fire and Rescue Services.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The report provides an opportunity for the Committee to be made aware of national initiatives, reviews and consultations and, where appropriate, to inform members' consideration of future agenda items relating to Police and Fire and Rescue matters.

2.2 In order to ensure that elected members can make representations to the national authorities as required in relation to wider scrutiny issues and concerns, elected members may be interested to note the following updates from external agencies including, but not limited to, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, Her Majesty's Fire Inspectorate, Audit Scotland and the Accounts Commission in relation to the work carried out by the Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and they will consider and respond to consultations on strategic Police and Fire and Rescue priorities and Scottish Police Authority and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plans. This report is intended to draw these elements together with a view to informing and shaping future meeting agendas as appropriate and raising awareness of emerging issues.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Committee notes the information contained within the report in respect of current and emerging national issues relating to police and fire and rescue matters.

**Ruth Binks**  
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

## 4.0 SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

4.1 **SPA Board and Committee Meetings:** The last board meeting of the Scottish Police Authority was held on [24 October 2018](#) and in addition to the regular standing items also considered the following matters: Local Policing and Accountability and SPA Governance Framework. In respect of the paper [Local Policing and Accountability](#) this paper provided SPA Board members with an opportunity to discuss issues around the development of the principles of localism in policing. The following points were noted in the paper

- Policing 2026: Serving a Changing Scotland was established in 2016 by the SPA and Police Scotland to develop a strategic response to meet the emerging and projected needs of communities across Scotland. A key component to this is the Local Approaches to Policing Programme (LAP) introduced in recognising that adopting a 'one size fits all approach' was not appropriate for Police Scotland and a need for tailored approaches to meet the differing needs of communities.
- The paper discusses the next steps in defining the principles of localism in policing and although work is at an early stage, it does discuss the merit of developing a set of principles of localism that may include delegated authority and responsibility to local commanders, balanced accountability between local and national, appropriate local resourcing in line with local needs and local 'branding'. It is anticipated that this proposal will feature in future SPA Board meetings.

4.2 **SPA Board Chair:** Council Officers have made contact with the SPA Board Chair Professor Susan Deacon to attend a future Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee meeting in Inverclyde. The SPA has indicated that the Chair would be delighted to attend Inverclyde and arrangements are being made to confirm attendance.

4.3 **Pay Deal:** As part of a strategic investment in policing, it was announced in September that Police Officers in Scotland are to receive an immediate 6.5% pay increase. The award will be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and applies until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

## 5.0 HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY IN SCOTLAND

5.1 **Inspection of Custody Visiting Centres across Scotland:** [A report](#) published on the 19th October 2018 by HMICS, Police Scotland is urged to develop a strategy and systems to address variations and other recurring issues in respect of police custody arrangements.

The aim of the inspection report was to assess the treatment and conditions for those detained in police custody centres across Scotland with inspections carried out in 17 centres including the custody centre at Greenock Police Office. The inspections sought to inspect and assess what progress had been made in achieving positive outcomes, adhering to national policy and processes, and implementing previous HMICS recommendations.

The report noted that people detained in police custody in Scotland generally received a good standard of care despite inconsistencies across the country.

In respect of the custody centre at Greenock the report noted:

- There are 57 cells in the custody centre in Greenock with the total number of 3,971 people detained in 2017-18.
- The layout of the custody centre in Greenock was recorded as 'particular concern' where detainees are required to pass through a narrow area behind the booking in desk to reach other parts of the custody centre, such as the room housing the intoximeter.
- CCTV was being installed for the first time at the custody centre in Greenock during the inspections.
- The report also considered transfers between custody centres with mention of

the centre at Greenock which often receives transferred detainees because of its large number of cells but low throughput.

- Pressures on health services were also noted and during the visit a medical emergency was observed and a detainee waiting an hour before paramedics could attend and take to hospital. This resulted in the custody centre at Greenock being closed for new detainees meaning that local officers were required to wait in unsuitable conditions with other detainees, or taken to another custody centre for processing.

## 6.0 SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD

6.1 **Scottish Fire and Rescue Board:** The most recent meeting of the Scottish Fire 7 Rescue Board was held on [25 October](#) with mostly standing items considered.

## 7.0 SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

7.1 A report [Fire Safety and Organisational Statistics \(Scotland\) 2017-18](#) was published and highlighted that in 2017-18 there were 69,758 Home Fire Safety Visits carried out across Scotland. The statistics are compared by Local Authority area with a rate of visits per 1,000 residential buildings which provided a useful comparison between Local Authority areas. Inverclyde recorded a rate of 36 per 1000 the fourth highest in Scotland and above the national average of 26.9. This rate is attributable to the Inverclyde locality Station Manager developing referral pathways with housing providers and the Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership to identify high risk members within the community. The Community Safety Partnership also has an improvement action around further increasing the number of home fire safety visits by training key staff members.

7.2 A report [Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics \(Scotland\) 2017-18](#) was published and highlighted a range of fire and rescue activity across Scotland during 2017-18. The reports highlights:

- There was a reduction of all fires in Inverclyde during 2017-18 with a total of 537 fires recorded. This is down from 786 in 2016-17 and 622 in 2015-16.
- The rate of secondary fires per 100,000 population in Inverclyde is 441.8 which is considerably lower than the 2016-17 rate of 718.8. The Scottish average is 270.9. In respect of location of secondary fires there was a significant reduction of secondary fires at grasslands and this can be linked to the partnership working arrangements in Inverclyde
- The national average rate of non-fire incidents per 100,000 population was 242.0 with Inverclyde at 313.6 non-fire incidents per 100,000 population which is a slight increase on the previous two years. However it is worth noting that the actual figure is 247 incidents and reflects the diverse non-fire incidents that SFRS attend locally.
- The report also highlighted that whilst very low, SFRS did attend to 44 dwelling fires where there were no smoke alarms present, or the smoke alarm present did not operate. As per 6.1, the Inverclyde locality Station Manager does work with a number of partners to encourage referral pathways for free Home Fire Safety Visits where smoke alarms can be installed if there is a need.

7.3 A meeting of the Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership (Multi Agency Tasking & Coordinating Group) was chaired by the Inverclyde locality Station Manager in September and brought together partners from SFRS, Police Scotland, Inverclyde Council and local housing providers to plan arrangements for the period leading up to Bonfire night. Multi- agency responses include:

- Joint awareness raising sessions with SFRS, Police Scotland and Inverclyde Council to all secondary schools in Inverclyde and the three I Youth Zones.
- Information letters sent to local businesses to advise of legislation and enforcement responses in respect of fly-tipping.
- Community Wardens carrying out daily patrols in areas known for fire raising
- Joint patrols with SFRS, Police Scotland and Inverclyde Council Community Wardens on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

## 8.0 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

8.1 At the meeting of the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 members noted that a visit to attend the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Command and Control Centre at Johnstone would be organised. LSO Binning has organised for members to attend on Thursday 6 December.

## 9.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 9.1 Finance

There are no financial implications.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/(savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With effect from	Annual net impact £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

### 9.2 Legal

There are no legal implications.

### 9.3 Human Resources

This report does not impact on Human Resources.

### 9.4 Equalities

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
X	NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### 9.5 Repopulation

This structure is intended to protect and assist the local communities.

## 10.0 CONSULTATIONS

10.1 None.

## 11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 There are no background papers.