

## LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2019

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### Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 21 November 2019 at 3pm

**Present:** Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, J McEleny, Moran and Quinn.

**Chair:** Councillor Quinn presided.

**In attendance:** Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport, Mr I Hanley (Community Safety & Resilience), Head of Environmental & Public Protection, Mr J Douglas (for Head of Legal & Property Services) and Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services).

**In attendance also:** Chief Superintendent A Murray, Chief Superintendent S Carle, Chief Inspector D Reilly, Chief Inspector D Faulds and Inspector W Graham (Police Scotland), Area Manager D McCarrey and Station Commander S MacMillan (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service).

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

#### **704 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 704**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors MacLeod, McVey and Wilson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

#### **705 Road Policing Spotlight Report 705**

There was submitted a spotlight report, setting out the position in relation to roads policing following the October 2018 implementation of the decision to remove the local base and, instead, to deploy officers from the road policing patrol base in Glasgow Road, Govan.

The report set out the arrangements for deployment of resources, the engagement with K Division, campaigns undertaken and performance figures, it being noted particularly that during 2017/18, Inverclyde had been one of only two local authorities in Scotland which had not had a fatal road collision. In 2018/19, there had been one reported death to date and in this case other contributing factors had been involved.

Chief Superintendent Carle confirmed that support to K Division local policing remained a priority for road policing and that the current deployment model would continue to be monitored to ensure resources were maximised to provide the best service possible.

During discussion on the item, continued concerns were expressed by a number of Members regarding the implications for service provision of the removal of the local road policing unit and it was acknowledged by the police representatives that the requirement to deploy from Glasgow did on occasion result in the diversion of officers to respond to other incidents before reaching Inverclyde.

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Reference was also made by Chief Superintendent Carle during the discussion to the use of local officers in certain circumstances to assist road policing officers and to take part in “doubling up” arrangements.

While certain roles were restricted to specialist road policing officers, to ensure routine enforcement could still be carried out, a number of local police officers were now trained in the use of speed detection devices, allowing them to enforce speed complaints in their own areas and to address other road safety community concerns with support from road policing.

Chief Superintendent Murray confirmed in response to concerns expressed regarding the allocation of funding, that while he would obviously welcome additional provision, he was satisfied that K Division was receiving a fair allocation of the resources available.

**Decided:** that the Road Policing Spotlight Report be noted.

### 706 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report: 1 July 2019 – 30 September 2019 706

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019. It was noted in particular that during the reporting period, there had been no accidental dwelling fire casualties in any ward within Inverclyde.

During the course of discussion on this item, reference was made to incidents of deliberate and malicious fire raising in the last few months within Inverclyde and the arrangements in place for investigating such fires were outlined. It was noted that every fire incident would be investigated by the Fire & Rescue Service and recorded by origin of fire. Where criminality was suspected, the police would take the primary role in any joint investigation. In terms of engagement with affected residents, as raised during the discussion, Group Manager McCarrey advised that while the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service would arrange fire safety visits in appropriate cases, resources were not available to report back individually to all affected residents in respect of every fire.

It was noted that a Fire & Rescue Service spotlight report would be submitted to the February 2020 meeting of the Committee and Members were requested to provide the Fire & Rescue Service with any particular issues or concerns in relation to service provision in advance of submission of that report.

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

### 707 Police Scotland Performance Report: 1 April 2019 – 30 September 2019 707

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019.

Reference was made by Chief Superintendent Murray to the work of the Public Protection Unit, particularly in respect of human trafficking, following a recent article on this subject in the Greenock Telegraph. Chief Superintendent Murray advised that following investigation, working closely with the national Human Trafficking Unit, Inverclyde had not been identified as a particular area of risk.

It was noted that there were established joint working arrangements through the Community Safety Partnership and close liaison between the Public Protection Unit and the Inverclyde Health and Safety Partnership which had responsibility for exploitation within its remit. It was reported also that Chief Inspector Louise Harvie of the Public Protection Unit had indicated that she would welcome a meeting with Councillor Jackson in relation to the information contained in the recent Greenock Telegraph article and referred to by him at this Committee meeting.

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

**708 Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee Update Report (November 2019) 708**

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

**Decided:**

- (1) that the current and emerging national issues relating to Police and Fire & Rescue matters be noted; and
- (2) that the opportunity for providing feedback to the Scottish Police Authority on the key strategic challenges and opportunities for the improvement of policing in Scotland as set out in paragraph 8 of the report be noted.

**709 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2019-2022 709**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the recent publication of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2019-22.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the publication of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2019-22 be noted; and
- (2) that should there be any changes to provision within Inverclyde as a result of the consultation exercise, it be recommended that a review of the current Local Fire & Rescue Plan for Inverclyde be undertaken to ensure its continuing relevance.

**710 Water Safety 710**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing information on issues in respect of water safety in Inverclyde.

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