

## LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

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### Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 17 September 2020 at 3pm

**Present:** Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, MacLeod, J McEleny, McVey, Moran, Quinn and Wilson.

**Chair:** Councillor McVey presided.

**In attendance:** Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Service Manager Community Learning & Development, Community Safety, Resilience and Sport, Ms R Dillon (for Interim Head of Service – Covid Response), Ms A Sinclair (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Mr I Hanley (Community Safety Resilience), Ms D Sweeney and Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services) and Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

**In attendance also:** Chief Superintendent A Murray and Chief Inspector D Reilly (Police Scotland) and Group Manager D McCarrey and Local Senior Officer J McNeil (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Convener welcomed Mr Jim McNeil, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service who had recently taken up post as the Local Senior Officer.

The Convener also thanked Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, on behalf of the Committee, for their service during the COVID pandemic.

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

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| <b>364</b> | <b>Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest</b>  | <b>364</b> |
|            | An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Murphy.  |            |
|            | No declarations of interest were intimated.   |            |
| <b>365</b> | <b>Presentation – COVID Operational Response and Stop Search Proactivity</b>  | <b>365</b> |
|            | The Committee heard a presentation by Chief Superintendent Murray and Chief Inspector Reilly on the use of stop search as an operational policing tactic in the prevention, investigation and detection of crime with the intention of keeping people safe and improving community wellbeing. The issues faced by Inverclyde in relation to organised crime, drug abuse and rivalry violence were highlighted and the Committee was advised that the increase in stop search proactivity had been accompanied by a decrease in the number of complaints made. |            |
| <b>366</b> | <b>Police Scotland Performance Report</b>   | <b>366</b> |
|            | There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April to 30 June 2020.  |            |

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Chief Inspector Reilly advised the Committee of the Police response to the COVID pandemic, Operation Talla, noting that the effective realignment of resources had alleviated the impact on policing.

Reference was made to two recent serious cases of domestic fireraising in Greenock, one of which had resulted in a fatality and the other in serious injury. Chief Inspector Reilly gave assurances that officers were working closely with colleagues in the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service to investigate these matters and thanked them for their prompt responses to these incidents.

Chief Inspector Reilly clarified that the reference in the report to 19 suspected drug deaths referred to all of K Division and that the figure for KC Division, which covers Inverclyde, was 11.

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

### 367 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report 367

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 April to 30 June 2020.

Group Manager McCarrey advised that restrictions on social gatherings as a result of the COVID pandemic may impact on organised fireworks events and that the service was monitoring the situation

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

### 368 Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee Update Report (September 2020) 368

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;
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to submit a response to the Independent Advisory Group on Police use of Temporary Powers relating to the Coronavirus crisis; and
- (3) that the response to the Independent Review of Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Issues in Relation to Policing be approved.

### 369 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Inverclyde Local Fire and Rescue Plan: Consultation 369

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the consultation response from Inverclyde Council in respect of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service review for the Inverclyde Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

**Decided:** that the consultation response to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Inverclyde Local Fire and Rescue Plan be approved.

### 370 Joint Strategy for Policing (2020) - Policing for a Safe, Protected and Resilient Scotland 370

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the consultation response from Inverclyde Council in respect of the Police Scotland Plan, 'Joint Strategy for Policing (2020)'.

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**Decided:** that the consultation response to the Police Scotland plan 'Joint Strategy for Policing (2020)' be approved.