Inverclyde council

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4

Report To:	**Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel**	**Date:**	**15 September 2022**
Report By:	**Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development**	**Report No:**	**P&F/05/22/HS**
Contact Officer:	**Hugh Scott, Service Manager, Community Learning Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport**	**Contact No:**	**01475 715450**
Subject:	**Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report**		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 ☐For Decision ☒For Information/Noting

1.2 The report informs the panel of local and national initiatives, reviews, and consultations and, where appropriate, informs Members of potential future agenda items relevant to Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue and local impacts.

1.3 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.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the panel notes the current and emerging national issues relating to Police and Fire & Rescue matters; and

2.2 That the panel notes the response on community policing in Inverclyde.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

3.0 THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY BOARD

3.1 The meeting of SPA Board was held on the 23 June 2022 https://www.spa.police.uk/meetings/authority-meetings/23-june-2022/ and considered several updates, including:
- Drug driving update;
- Resource spending review;
- Firearms surrender campaign; and
- Motorcycle safety campaign.

3.2 Drug driving update

Since a new offence was introduced in Scotland on 21 October 2019 to set specific drug driving limits for 17 specified drugs there has been a significantly higher demand for testing and analysis of blood samples than initially forecast. Demand has been consistently more than twice the original estimated level. It is clear that drug driving in Scotland is far more prevalent than was thought to be the case when the service was set up. The high demand has caused a backlog of cases, causing an issue with cases not progressing to prosecution due to the statutory 12-month time limit.

3.3 Resource spending review

The results of the Resource Spending Review were published by the Scottish Government on 31 May 2022. The Review is not a finalised budget for policing. It sets out a framework for spending in the years ahead and the proposed flat cash revenue will have implications for policing.

3.4 Firearms surrender campaign

Police Scotland participated in the UK wide national firearms surrender campaign between 12 and 29 May. Proactive local and national messaging resulted in the surrender of over 300 firearms, including shotguns, air-weapons, imitation firearms and ammunition.

3.5 Motorcycle Safety Campaign

Throughout the summer months, Police Scotland will continue prevention, education and enforcement activity as part of the Motorcycle Safety Campaign. The campaign is designed to promote safe and responsible riding and driving, and reduce the number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured on our roads. In addition to direct engagement with motorcyclists, there is a strong focus on the contribution all road users can make to motorcycle safety by adopting positive driving behaviours.

3.6 HM INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY IN SCOTLAND

3.7 HMICS published its annual report 2021-22 on 30 June 2022 https://www.hmics.scot/publications/hmics-annual-report-2021-2022. The report contains the reflections of HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland on the state of policing in Scotland during 2021-22 and considers some of the challenges that lie ahead. Recognising the challenges in deploying police resources to the growing issues of:
- cybercrime;
- fraud;
- child sex abuse - both online and in person; and
- increasing violent and sexual crime.

3.8 THE SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE BOARD

3.9 The SFRS held a board meeting on the 30 June 2022 https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/about-us/sfrs-board/board-meetings, which considered general business matters, including:

- action and decision logs
- Chair's and Chief Officer's report;
- committee reports;
- risk and performance report;
- budget reports;
- health and safety annual report 202/21;
- performance management framework annual report;
- mainstream and equalities outcomes progress report; and
- working in partnership 2020-21

The minutes from this meeting were not published at the time of this report.

3.10 The Service Delivery Committee minutes contained within the board meeting papers noted that Home Safety Fire Visit targets are now being met, but still to achieve pre-Covid levels. The Committee also considered the emerging risks presented by lithium-ion battery technology. The Committee commented on the relatively low number of incidents involving lithium-ion batteries and the work being undertaken in the Service to identify and prepare for future risks.

3.11 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

3.12 At its meeting on 23 June 2022 the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel requested a report be submitted to the next meeting of the panel on community policing in Inverclyde, including information on resources over the last 5 to 6 years.

3.13 After the request Council officers have worked with Police Scotland on the details that can be released about the numbers of police in Inverclyde. A response was provided by the Area Commander for Inverclyde. This is detailed in paragraph 3.14 below.

3.14 'As Area Commander for Inverclyde, I can confirm I have sufficient resources to meet the policing and community demands across Inverclyde. The resourcing picture is made up of the following:

- Community Policing Teams – Sufficient resources are in place to ensure all Ward areas and Schools have a dedicated officer in place, these teams are managed by two Sergeants and one Inspector on a full time basis.
- Response Policing – Response policing is a Divisional team that responds to urgent requests for policing such as 999 calls. This model ensures if demand is greater than normal across Inverclyde then I have the ability to transfer immediately Response Officers from another part of the Division or indeed another part of the Force area to meet those demands. This approach has been in place for a considerable period of time and is working well. This team of officers are managed by dedicated Response Sergeants and Inspectors all of whom are based within Greenock Police Station.
- Criminal Investigations Department (CID) – I have a dedicated team of Detective Constables and Sergeants who are line managed by a full time Detective Inspector based out of Greenock Police Station, similar to Response Policing I have the ability to transfer Detectives from across K Division if I require additional resources. A prime example of this is when we were investigating the fire-raising incidents in Inverclyde (Operation Tell), the additional resources I received from CID and indeed Regional and National Resources ensured I had sufficient resources to meet that extraordinary demand at that time. In addition, I have support when required from more specialised CID colleagues such as Public Protection Unit,

Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit, Analytical Support, Business Unit Support, Rape/Sexual abuse Investigation Unit.

- I have a dedicated team called the Alcohol, Violence Reduction Unit (AVRU). This team report directly to myself and carryout day to day urgent policing tasks. A typical day will involve them executing Drug warrant searches or pro-active patrols in plain clothes to known problematic areas.

In addition to the above daily resource picture, I have access to a number of specialist support services which I routinely use to support my policing operations across Inverclyde, some examples being:

- Specialist Crime Division
- Operational Support (search, public order, marine unit, etc.)
- Roads Policing

All the above additional support come from National and/or Regional Teams, they all routinely assist me to deliver on the local policing plans and ultimately provide an excellent policing service to the people of Inverclyde when I require their assistance.

Added to the above is the support we receive on a daily basis from Inverclyde's Community Warden Teams, this partnership working greatly assists in keeping our local communities safe.

A unique partnership arrangement is in place within Inverclyde called the Inverclyde Partnership Hub, this daily meeting ensures all key partners are sighted on developments over a 24hr period to ensure we can respond quickly to emerging patterns of behaviour that cause concern. This approach ensures the relevant partner takes on responsibility for a particular concern which ensures swift action is taken, this has been an excellent development for Inverclyde and has greatly reduced antisocial behaviour in the area.

To conclude, as can be seen from the above, the resource picture for policing in Inverclyde is wide and varied, this is necessary as it affords flexibility to ensure community safety is maintained 24/7, I am confident I have sufficient available resources to deliver upon this commitment.'

4.0 Proposals

That the Committee notes the current and emerging national issues relating to Police and Fire & Rescue matters and notes the response on Community policing.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		X	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 **Finance**

One off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 **Legal/Risk**

There are no legal/risk implications contained within this report.

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no human resource implications contained within this report.

5.5 **Strategic**

There are no strategic implications contained within this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 There were no consultations required outside those noted in the report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 There are no background papers associated with this report.