

## LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 4 JULY 2023

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### Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 4 July 2023 at 3pm

**Present:** Provost McKenzie, Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Daisley, Law, McCabe (for Brennan), McGuire, Moran, Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson.

**Chair:** Councillor Wilson presided.

**In attendance:**

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Martin McNab	Public Protection Manager
Hugh Scott	Service Manager Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Ross Scullion	Team Leader, Community Safety and Resilience
David Keenan	Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
George Barbour	Service Manager, Communication, Tourism and Health & Safety

**In attendance also:**

Laura Waddell	Chief Superintendent, Local Police Commander Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
Damien Kane	Chief Inspector, Area Commander, Inverclyde, Police Scotland
Derek Middleton	Intelligence Support Analysis and Performance, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, Police Scotland
David McCarrey	Area Commander, Service Delivery, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde
Paul Storrie	Area Group Commander Prevention and Protection, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde
Mark Loynd	Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillor McGuire attending remotely.

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

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

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

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An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Brennan, with Councillor McCabe substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

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**371 Police Officer Numbers – National Picture****371**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing Members of the current national picture on the number of police officers in Scotland.

The Scrutiny Panel heard a presentation by Chief Inspector Kane and Chief Superintendent Waddell outlining the budget and employment situation of Police Scotland and the challenges and capabilities of the service. Thereafter, both Chief Inspector Kane and Chief Superintendent Waddell answered a number of questions from Members relating to the presentation and report.

During discussion Chief Superintendent Waddell indicated that discussions were ongoing regarding the future location of Greenock Police Station, and noted that a station would be retained in Inverclyde.

The Convenor thanked Police Scotland for their efforts and professionalism during recent operations in Inverclyde.

**Decided:** that the information contained in the report be noted and that the Board would remain updated on the local impact of police numbers in Inverclyde.

**372 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Strategic Service Review Programme****372**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development informing Members of initiatives that Scottish Fire & Rescue Service are planning as part of their Strategic Service Review Programme (SSRP), and the local service implications.

The Scrutiny Panel heard a presentation by Group Commander Loynd in relation to the SSRP and the data used to formulate the proposed service changes. Thereafter Area Commander McCarrey answered a number of questions in relation to the service review. Provost McKenzie left the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

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

- (1) that the information contained in the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed that the Convenor write to the Chief Fire Officer and the Chair of the Board of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in relation to the following matters,
  - (a) the level of engagement with unions prior to the proposed changes, (b) the different messages of staff and management regarding the safety implications of the changes, (c) the timeline of the announcement of the flat cash budget, which did not allow for sufficient consultation to be carried out prior to the proposed changes, (d) the National Board's role in making sure the process was conducted correctly, (e) the Scrutiny Panel's disappointment at the lack of opportunity to scrutinise and have input into the proposed changes, and (f) a request that specific issues relating to Inverclyde be taken into account in any subsequent proposals, particularly in relation the information contained in the local report and the community impact assessment.