

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 25 JANUARY 2024

Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 25 January 2024 at 11am

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillor Cassidy (for McGuire) Clocherty, Crowther, Law, McCabe (for Brennan) McCluskey (for Moran), Quinn, Reynolds, Robertson (for Daisley), and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided until 12.10 pm and Provost McKenzie presided for the remainder of the meeting.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources
Hugh Scott	Service Manager Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Ross Scullion	Team Leader, Community Safety Partnership
Martin McNab	Public Protection Manager
Anne Sinclair	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

In attendance also:

Gordon McCreddie	Chief Superintendent, Local Police Commander, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
Damien Kane	Chief Inspector, Area Commander, Inverclyde, Police Scotland
Richard Banks	Superintendent Operations for Renfrewshire & Inverclyde, Police Scotland
Alan Harris	Estates Change Manager – West, Estates Transformation, Police Scotland
Davina Fereday	Research and Insight Manager, Strategy, Insight and Engagement, Professionalism, Strategy and Engagement, Police Scotland
David McCarrey	Area Commander, Service Delivery, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde

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

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed the representatives from Police Scotland to the meeting.

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

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Brennan, with Councillor McCabe substituting, Councillor Daisley, with Councillor Robertson substituting, Councillor Moran, with Councillor McCluskey substituting and Councillor McGuire with Councillor Cassidy substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

47 Police Scotland Estate Strategy Consultations**47**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) informing the Panel about Police Scotland's national consultation on their estate strategy and potential local implications and (2) presenting a draft response to both the national consultation on estate strategy and the local consultations on Port Glasgow and Greenock Police Stations.

At the commencement of discussion, Chief Superintendent McCreadie made a statement on the consultations regarding the proposed disposal and relocation of Greenock Police Station and the sale of the Port Glasgow Police Station. He focussed on four key points relating to Greenock Police Station (a) the need for change, (b) the reasons and rationale behind the proposals, (c) what the future might look like for the communities of Inverclyde in respect of any future police station should that be determined and (d) the scale and scope of service provision, and noted that Port Glasgow Police station is not currently in use. Following his statement Chief Superintendent McCreadie answered a number of questions from Members. He gave assurances that the Greenock Station would not be closed until a credible, realistic option was identified and stated that there is no proposal to reduce the number of officers. He stated that if it is determined that Greenock Police Station is beyond repair, the same number of officers and services in Inverclyde would be maintained. Following discussion on front counter provision, Chief Superintendent McCreadie stated that a front counter that is open 24/7 would not change and the station would be visible, accessible to the public, and a place of safety. Concerns were raised by Members in relation to custody suite matters.

Chief Superintendent McCreadie stated that he understood Members' concerns and advised that the existing custody suite at Greenock is outdated and does not comply with modern standards. He explained that the cells do not only serve Greenock but are part of a national resource and they provide a default custody arrangement for officers from Paisley. He further advised that if there were no custody facilities in Greenock, officers would require to travel to either Glasgow, Clydebank or Saltcoats. Chief Superintendent McCreadie advised the Panel that he has advocated for the retention of the custody provision and gave assurances that he will continue to do so. Mr Harris assured the Panel that a full options appraisal would be conducted after the consultation closes and Chief Superintendent McCreadie confirmed that the Panel would be advised of the results.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting during consideration of this item at 12.10pm. Prior to leaving he thanked officers from Police Scotland for attending. Provost McKenzie assumed the Chair.

Decided: that the Panel approves the proposed response to (a) the national consultation on the Police Scotland Estate, (b) the local consultation on the Port Glasgow Police Station, and (c) the local consultation on the Greenock Police Station.