

## LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 8 FEBRUARY 2024

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### Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 8 February 2024 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Brooks (for Wilson), Cassidy (for Moran), Clocherty, Crowther, McGuire, Reynolds and Robertson (for Daisley).

**Chair:** Provost McKenzie presided.

**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 |
| Martin McNab    | Public Protection Manager   |
| Roisin Dillon   | Trading Standards and Enforcement Team Leader   |
| Anne Sinclair   | Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)       |
| Lindsay Carrick | Senior Committee Officer  |
| Diane Sweeney   | Senior Committee Officer  |
| PJ Coulter      | Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)  |

**In attendance also:**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Richard Banks | Superintendent, Operations for Renfrewshire & Inverclyde, Police Scotland  |
| Paul Thompson | Inspector, Neighbourhood Policing Team, Inverclyde, Police Scotland  |
| Rod Anderson  | Group Commander, Prevention & Protection, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde |

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Clocherty, McGuire and Reynolds 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.**

### 72 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Daisley with Councillor Robertson substituting, Councillor Moran with Councillor Cassidy substituting and Councillor Wilson with Councillor Brooks substituting and Councillors Law and Quinn.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

73 **Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report**

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At the commencement of discussion, Group Commander Anderson informed the Panel of an upcoming pre-consultation with the community, key stakeholders, partners and staff members on how members of the public and partners see the role of Scottish Fire & Rescue Service in the future. He advised that the start date will be announced imminently, further information will be circulated and that once the pre-consultation had concluded there will be a formal consultation later in the year, with the Panel being informed of the results.

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023. Group Commander Anderson advised Members that there has been an increase in deliberate fire setting incidents with most deliberate fire settings being secondary. It was noted that refuse fires accounted for 68% of those. He informed the Panel that ongoing engagement continues with the community and partners around deliberate fire setting and anti-social behaviour. It was reported that the Multi-Agency Fire-Raising Group met recently to progress an action plan to tackle deliberate fire setting. Members raised concerns regarding the increase in relation to staffing levels within the area and the impact this has on the community. Group Commander Anderson informed the Panel that local crews were currently not operating at full strength but added that the service was currently recruiting and training new recruits. He confirmed that he is comfortable with the levels of whole-time firefighters. Group Commander Anderson answered a number of Members' questions. Group Commander Anderson provided information on flooding incidents that the Fire Service responded to on the 7th and 8th October 2023, as requested by Councillor Quinn at the February meeting of the Panel. It was reported that the service attended fourteen flooding incidents in total within Inverclyde and Group Commander Anderson provided a verbal breakdown per ward as detailed below.

Inverclyde North – 4

Inverclyde East Central – 2

Inverclyde West – 3

Inverclyde South – 1

Inverclyde Southwest – 2

Inverclyde Central - 2

74 **Police Scotland Performance Report**

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There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2023 to 30 November 2023. Superintendent Banks referred to deliberate fire settings in Inverclyde and reported that one additional crime of wilful fire raising had been recorded in the reporting period compared to the previous year. During discussion on this item Superintendent Banks referred to the number of missing people reports recorded in the reporting period, adding that Looked After and Accommodated Children featured in over a third of missing person incidents. It was noted that the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Partnership's Team continue to work with residential units and hospitals to provide advice and guidance to missing individuals. There followed discussion on the Philomena Protocol and Trauma Informed Practice. Superintendent Banks answered a number of Members questions.

Superintendent Banks informed the Panel that the delivery of Hate Crime/Third Party Reporting Training is being arranged to staff of partner agencies throughout Inverclyde, to raise awareness of hate crime and to enable staff to report incidents online that they become aware of.

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

**75 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report****75**

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

**Decided:** that the updates on the following matters be noted (a) Inverclyde Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel Letter to the Cabinet Secretary, (b) Police Scotland Estate Strategy Consultations, (c) Scottish Government Budget 2024-25, (d) Proportionate Response to Crime Pilot, (e) HMICS Thematic Inspection of Organisational Culture in Police Scotland, (f) SFRS Make the Call Campaign, (g) Scottish Fire & Rescue Service – Fire Skills Course, (h) Local Police and Fire Plans Update and (i) invite to demonstrate the ‘Journey of a call’.