

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 28 MARCH 2024

Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 28 March 2024 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Clocherty, Crowther, Daisley, McGuire, Moran, Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

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| Tony McEwan | Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources (for Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development) |
| 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 Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services) |
| Lindsay Carrick | Senior Committee Officer |
| Diane Sweeney | Senior Committee Officer |
| Peter MacDonald | Principal Solicitor |

In attendance also:

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| Gordon McCreadie | Chief Superintendent, Local Police Commander, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland |
| Damien Kane | Chief Inspector, Area Commander, Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland |
| David McCarrey | Area Commander, Service Delivery. Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde |
| Rod Anderson | Group Commander, Prevention & Protection, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde |
| Paul McQueen | Watch Commander, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde |

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors McGuire, Quinn and Reynolds attending remotely.

The Convener welcomed the representatives from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Services to the meeting.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener conveyed his thanks and appreciation to Chief Superintendent McCreadie and officers from Police Scotland for the recent 'Journey of a Call' demonstration session which he and a number of other Members had attended and which had been extremely informative.

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

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An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Law.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

192 Police Scotland Performance Report

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At the commencement of discussion, Chief Superintendent McCreadie expressed his thanks to Police Scotland staff and Members of the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel for attending the recent demonstration of the 'Journey of a Call' session held on 20 March 2024.

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2023 to 31 December 2023. During discussion on this item Chief Superintendent McCreadie informed the Panel that the closing date of Police Scotland's Estates Strategy consultations is 31 March 2024 and conveyed his thanks to everyone who has contributed. It was noted that that an update will be provided to the Panel on proposals, recommendations and details of further consultations. Chief Superintendent McCreadie stated that he will continue to advocate for appropriate cell custody provision that will meet the needs of the community and Police Scotland staff and officers. He informed the Panel that following the recent Proportionate Response to Crime pilot, it has been recommended to be rolled out across the rest of the service on a phased basis with timescales to be confirmed. It was noted that drop-in sessions will be arranged to address specific questions and to provide additional information and dates will be communicated to Members. Concerns were expressed in relation to youth gatherings in certain areas of Inverclyde over the summer months. Chief Inspector Kane informed the Panel of the ongoing partnership prevention work regarding this and provided assurance that plans and initiatives are being implemented to alleviate youth gatherings. It was noted that the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 will come into effect on 1 April 2024. Chief Inspector Kane answered a number of questions and provided clarification on how Police Scotland is approaching this issue locally.

Decided: that the information contained in the report be noted

193 Spotlight on Scottish Fire & Rescue Service East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Community Action Team

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Prior to discussion of this item, Area Commander McCarrey conveyed his thanks and appreciation to Inverclyde Council who funded the 2024 Fire Skills course which was held earlier in the month and to the other emergency services who supported the ten secondary school pupils who attended. The course aimed to provide pupils with important life skills including safety, discipline, respect, CPR, communication, and teamwork.

Group Commander Anderson provided an overview of the ongoing work of the Community Action Team for East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde and Watch Commander McQueen highlighted the activities taking place in Inverclyde. It was noted that a summary of the update provided by Group Commander Anderson and Watch Commander McQueen would be circulated to Members. Councillor Quinn left the meeting during discussion of this item.

Decided: that the spotlight report on Scottish Fire & Rescue Service East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Community Action Team be noted.

194 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report

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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.

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Decided: that the updates on the following matters be noted (a) The Scottish Police Authority Board, (b) change to prioritise frontline policing, (c) HMICS Thematic Review on Policing Mental Health, (d) drug enforcement, (e) drink and drug driving enforcement, (f) domestic abuse prevention campaign, (g) technology to support front line policing, (h) VR/VER update, (i) invite to demonstrate the 'journey of a call', (j) HMICS Thematic Inspection of Road Policing in Scotland – Terms of Reference, (k) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Framework and (l) HM Fire Service Inspectorate – Mental Health and Wellbeing Support in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.