

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL - 19 SEPTEMBER 2024

Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 19 September 2024 at 3pm

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

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources
Hugh Scott	Service Manager Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Roisin Dillon	Trading Standards and Enforcement Team Leader
Anne Sinclair	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer

In attendance also:

David Doherty	Chief Inspector, Area Commander, Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
Kevin Murphy	Area Commander, Service Delivery, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde
Ian Sim	Station Commander, Prevention & Protection, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde.

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Crowther, Daisley, Law, Reynolds and Quinn attending remotely.

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

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

421 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

421

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McGuire with Councillor Cassidy substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

422 Police Scotland Performance Report

422

Prior to discussion of this item Chief Inspector Doherty acknowledged the collaborative planning and partnership work undertaken in relation to the recent peaceful protests in

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Inverclyde and gave his assurance to the Community that there are proportionate policing plans in place for future protests. Chief Inspector Doherty conveyed his thanks to officers, staff and partners involved.

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024. Chief Inspector Doherty referred to the recent Police Scotland recruitment campaign which commenced at the start of the financial year. It was reported that eight probation officers have been appointed to Inverclyde with a further twenty-one officers joining K division by the end of the financial year.

During the course of discussion of this item Chief Inspector Doherty answered a number of questions from Members in relation to Domestic Abuse. It was noted that multi-agency processes continue to play pivotal roles in safeguarding victims of domestic abuse, ensuring the provision of tailored support, a cohesive partnership response and comprehensive evaluation of risks faced by domestic abuse victims. Chief Inspector Doherty undertook to arrange for clarification to be provided to Members on the differences in relation to the recording standards of Domestic Abuse incidents.

Decided: that the information contained in the report be noted

423 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report

423

Prior to discussion of this item, the Convener conveyed his thanks and appreciation to Area Commander Kevin Murphy, Station Commander Scott Macmillan and Station Commander Clair Standing for the recent visit to the control centre which he and a number of Members had attended and which had been extremely informative.

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024. During discussion of this item Area Commander Murphy gave assurances that there are suitable levels of staffing, equipment and appliances in Inverclyde. Area Commander Murphy provided an update on the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Strategic Review. He informed Members that the pre consultation stage is now complete and responses will be reviewed as part of the next stage which will assist in determining options for change before the full consultation exercise commences later in the year. He confirmed that updates would be provided to Members on progress and updates in relation to the opportunities to participate in the engagement events that will be held.

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

424 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report

424

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:

(1) that the updates on the following matters be noted (a) The Scottish Police Authority Board, (b) COSLA Leaders Forum, (c) Local Authority Scrutiny, (d) Community Confidence Action Research, (e) Long-term vision for policing, (f) Policing in a Digital World – Digital Evidence Detection Dogs (g) Police Scotland Online Child Sexual Abuse Campaign, (h) HMICS Frontline Focus – Wellbeing, (i) Police Scotland campaign launched to tackle alcohol proxy purchases, (j) SFRS Appointments and (k) Partnership Water Safety event at Gourrock.