

## LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 21 NOVEMBER 2024

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### Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 21 November 2024 at 3pm

**Present:** Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Clocherty, Curley (for Crowther), Daisley, Law, Hellyer (for McGuire), 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:**

Gordon McCreadie	Chief Superintendent, Local Police Commander, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
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
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 and Reynolds attending remotely.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed the representatives from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and Councillor Ian Hellyer to the meeting. Councillor Wilson congratulated Councillor Hellyer on his recent election as Councillor for Ward 5 (Inverclyde West).

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

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

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Crowther, with Councillor Curley substituting, and Councillor McGuire, with Councillor Hellyer substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

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**556 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report****556**

Prior to discussion of this item, Area Commander Murphy conveyed his thanks and appreciation to Elected Members for attending the recent Fire Skills course held for secondary school pupils in Inverclyde. The course aimed to provide pupils with essential life skills including team building, problem solving, and health and safety awareness. He congratulated the pupils who attended on their achievements. Area Commander Murphy also expressed his gratitude to Inverclyde Council for funding the course and to Police Scotland officers who supported the young people.

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024.

During the course of discussion on this item reference was made to the activity conducted locally by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service in the period running up to and on Bonfire Night. It was noted that between the 1-10 November, the service attended ten bonfires in the area. It was reported that three of the fires were deemed to require firefighting action with the remainder risk assessed and deemed to have had sufficient supervision and located in a safe location. In addition, the service attended six refuse fires in the same period, with four of them occurring on Bonfire Night. Group Commander Anderson advised that a more detailed report of the events will be available at the next Scrutiny Panel. Thereafter Group Commander Anderson answered a number of questions from Members. The Convener expressed his thanks to Scottish Fire & Rescue Service for the work undertaken on the Fire Skills course and to Hugh Scott, Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport, and his team for their assistance.

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

**557 Police Scotland Performance Report****557**

Prior to reporting on this item, Chief Superintendent McCreadie informed the Scrutiny Panel that he is taking up a new role in Police Scotland. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Panel and Inverclyde Council officers on his last meeting. The Chief Superintendent also extended his thanks and appreciation to Police Scotland officers.

In reference to Bonfire Night, Chief Superintendent McCreadie conveyed his thanks to Inverclyde Council and colleagues at Scottish Fire & Rescue Service acknowledging positive working relationships leading up to and on Bonfire Night.

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 31 August 2024. During the course of discussion on this item Chief Superintendent McCreadie reported that recorded domestic abuse incidents in Inverclyde increased by 19.5% from last year's figures and advised that caution should be exercised in comparing the numbers of domestic abuse which involved crimes being recorded, and the detection rate, due to the change in how crimes are recorded. Chief Superintendent McCreadie confirmed in response to concerns raised that tackling domestic abuse remains a top priority for Police Scotland. He provided assurance that Police Scotland are committed to providing a professional, sensitive and consistent response to victims. It was noted that partnership working continues to play a critical role in protecting victims, offering tailored support and ensuring accountability among all stakeholders.

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

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**558 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report****558**

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) Emergency Services Unite with NHS to enhance Mental Health Support, (c) HMICS – Police Response to Missing Persons, (d) Consultation on HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2025-28, (e) Visit to SFRS Operations Control Room, (f) 200 Years of SFRS Celebration, (g) Fireworks Safety Campaign launched and (h) Inverclyde Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel letter to Police Scotland; and

(2) that the proposed response to the HMICS consultation on their future scrutiny plan be approved.

**559 Mr Gordon McCready****559**

The Convener conveyed his thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Scrutiny Panel to Chief Superintendent McCreadie who will be taking up a new post within Police Scotland. The Convener wished Mr McCreadie well for the future.