

Minute of Meeting



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
13 November 2017	11.00am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Curran (Chair)	
Councillor McCall	Councillor Muirhead
Councillor Small	

In attendance:

Midlothian Council	
Kevin Anderson, Head of Customer and Housing Services	Verona MacDonald, Democratic Services Team Leader
Edel Ryan, Environmental Health Manager (for the additional item on Irresponsible Dog Ownership)	
Police Scotland	
Chief Superintendent Lesley Clark	Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	
Stephen Gourlay, Area Manager	Dean Mack, Group Manager

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillors Munro and Parry.

2. Order of Business

The Chair advised that he had agreed to accept 2 additional items for consideration, namely (i) a Consultation on disposal of Police premises and (ii) Irresponsible Dog Ownership.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 21 August 2017 was considered and approved. The Chair was authorised to sign the Minute as a correct record of the meeting.

5. Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	
5.1 and 5.2	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – (1) Deputy Assistant Chief Officer – East Service Delivery Area; (2) Designation of Local Senior Officer	
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Chair summarised the content of letters dated 3 and 11 October 2017 received by the Chief Executive from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service advising of the appointments of Ali Perry to the post of Deputy Assistant Chief Officer and Stephen Gourlay to the post of Local Senior Officer and congratulated both on their appointments. On behalf of the Board, he expressed a thank you to David Farries for his contribution to the work of the Board and congratulated him on his promotion.		
Decision		
The Board noted the appointments by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	
5.3	Police Scotland – Designated Local Police Commander	
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Chair summarised the content of letter dated 15 September 2017 received by the Chief Executive from Police Scotland advising of the appointment of Temporary Chief Superintendent Lesley Clark to the post of Designated Local Officer. He welcomed her to the meeting and congratulated her on the appointment.		
Decision		
The Board noted the appointment by Police Scotland.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
Additional Item	Irresponsible Dog Ownership	Edel Ryan
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Chair in noting that this was one of the additional items, advised that he had asked that the Board be briefed on the matter due to a significant increase in recent years in this area of work and difficulties he had become aware of by a person trying to complain about an out of control dog whereby both the Council and Police advised it was not their responsibility.</p>		
<p>Edel Ryan, Environmental Health Manager, addressed the Board. She explained that there were 2 pieces of legislation which governed irresponsible dog ownership and dangerous dogs, namely the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010. Responsibility within the Dangerous Dogs Act lies mainly with the Police, whereas the Control of Dogs legislation, which is specific to Scotland, lies with the local authority. This piece of legislation governs dogs not being kept under control by an owner which gives alarm to an individual. Both aspects need to be satisfied before a dog control notice can be issued. Once a notice is in place the local authority must supervise the conditions and if they are not complied with report the matter to the Procurator Fiscal.</p>		
<p>She continued by making reference to the Protocol detailing the responsibilities of different bodies in dealing with irresponsible dog ownership. She advised it had been developed by local authorities, Police, the National Dog Warden Association and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and intended to aid local authorities and Police Scotland with the decision making process when considering how best to deal with complaints relating to irresponsible dog ownership. Whereas the Protocol does not hold statutory status nor is it a Scottish Government document, the Scottish Government were involved in facilitating its development. She advised that, over the past 6 months, the Council and Police Scotland had developed a closer working relationship whereby on a weekly basis discussion now took place with a view to agreeing who takes a complaint forward which included liaising with the complainant. Chief Inspector Simpson confirmed that the Police had undertaken a lot of work locally to address issues complainants may have experienced due to call centre staff perhaps not asking the right questions.</p>		
Decision		
<p>The Board noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the existence of the Protocol and requested that it be circulated to all Elected Members for their interest; (b) the steps being taken by the Council and Police Scotland to work closer together with regard to complaints to ensure that ownership is taken at the earliest possible stage and that complainants are kept informed of developments; (c) in early 2018, the Environmental Health Manager intended to look at the information currently on the Council's website with a view to providing additional information for persons concerned about out of control or dangerous dogs. 		

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4	Police Scotland Midlothian Scrutiny Report Quarter 2 2017-18	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Chief Superintendent Clark advised that this was week 4 in her new role and that she had travelled around the area looking at national interests but with a local context. She suggested that it would be beneficial in the new year for her to meet with the Chair, Councillor Curran, to discuss changes within the local Police service.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Simpson, spoke to the terms of the newly formatted report. He advised that he was happy to accept any thoughts Members may have on the new format. He highlighted a couple of the key points contained within the report, namely decreases in adult missing persons and bogus workmen crimes. He continued through the report providing a summary of each section making reference to the performance indicators listed.</p> <p>The Chair, then went through a few of the matters listed within the report, requesting further information/clarification on them which was provided by Chief Inspector Simpson.</p>		
Decision		
<p>The Board:-</p> <p>(a) noted the content of the Report;</p> <p>(b) requested that, for future reports, the performance indicators listed at the end of the report be embedded within the body of the report at the relevant section</p>		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.5	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Midlothian Local Performance Report – Quarter 2, 1 July to 30 September 2017	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Chair firstly thanked the Fire and Rescue Service for the briefing to all Elected Members held on 2 October 2017 at Midlothian House providing an overview of the transformation process the Service was presently going through.</p> <p>Stephen Gourlay advised he was delighted to be in his new post and take the organisation locally through the transformation process. He thanked the Chair for hosting the Briefing Session and advised there will be a formal consultation process in the new year. He advised that to some extent the transformation process was dependent upon the Scottish Government's financial settlement to the Fire and Rescue Service and that this would be known in the new few weeks. He encouraged the Council and local residents to contribute to the Local Plan consultation which was open for the new few weeks. He then mentioned recent local incidents whereby 2 firefighters were attacked whilst fighting a fire and a fire the day after that at Paradykes Primary School.</p> <p>Dean Mack then provided the Board with a summary of the Quarter 2 report. He</p>		

advised that 4 outcomes were on target and 2 were off target. He emphasised that the more work which is done to address issues arising from single occupancy dwellings the lower the number of incidents within these dwellings will be. He explained that the most likely cause of fires within single occupancy dwellings is now older people with debilitating illnesses such as dementia, leaving appliances on.

Questions were then put by Councillors Smail, Muirhead and McCall relating to emerging patterns of arson, re-introduction of the community policing teams and non-functioning smoke alarms, which were subsequently answered.

Stephen Gourlay then addressed the appendices to the report which detailed the enforcement audits carried out over the period. He advised that a new person was just in post and he was confident that the numbers proposed would be achieved before the end of the reporting year.

Decision

The Board noted the terms of the Quarter 2 report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.6	Living Safely in the Home	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
Stephen Gourlay spoke to the terms of the report which provided the Board with an evaluation of the Living Safely in the Home pilot initiative discussed at previous meetings. He advised that the initiative was led by the Fire Service in partnership with the Council with an aim to reduce unintentional harm in the home by targeting the highest risks, namely persons under 5 and over 65 years of age. Midlothian was selected as a pilot due to the proportionally higher number of occurrences.		
Decision		
<p>The Board noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the strong reasons to continue with the partnership work in Midlothian; (b) that the initiative would be recommended to form part of the Fire Service transformation and; (c) that it was highlighted within the Fire Service as an area of best practice. 		

Agenda No.	Report Title	
Additional Item	Disposal of Police Premises – Consultation Document	
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Chair advised that he had attended a meeting in COSLA where a consultation document relating to the disposal of buildings owned by Police Scotland was discussed and given that the document listed the proposed disposal of 3 Police		

Stations in Midlothian, namely, Gorebridge, Loanhead and Newbattle, he had thought it relevant to raise the matter as an additional matter for consideration by the Board.

Chief Inspector Simpson advised there were 6 Police Stations in Midlothian, with Dalkeith, Bonnyrigg and Penicuik being the main hubs. The stations at Gorebridge, Loanhead and Newbattle were no longer manned. The consultation exercise would see Police Scotland engaging with Community Councils, Elected Members and MSPs. He advised there had been one expression of interest by a local group to acquire the Gorebridge premises by way of community asset transfer.

Decision

The Board noted the terms of the consultation document and requested that copies be circulated to all Elected Members

The meeting terminated at 12.20 pm.