

# Minute of Meeting



## Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
15 November 2016	11.00am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

### Present:

Councillor Parry (Chair)	Councillor Baxter
Councillor de Vink	Councillor Montgomery
Councillor Muirhead	Councillor Wallace

### In attendance:

Kevin Anderson – Head of Customer and Housing Services	
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Chief Superintendent Ivor Marshall (Police Scotland)	Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson (Police Scotland)
David Farries – Area Manager (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)	Steve Gourlay – Group Manager (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)
Dean Mack - Group Manager (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)	

## 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

It was noted that no apologies had been received.

## 2. Order of Business

The order of business was confirmed as outlined in the agenda that had been previously circulated.

## 3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were noted.

## 4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board meeting of 23 August 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

## 5. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Local Plan Performance Report for Midlothian</b>	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</b>

### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard from David Farries from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service who introduced the Quarter 2 Local Plan Performance Report for Midlothian, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda.

In his introduction, David spoke of some of the current pressures facing the Service, making particular reference to the budgetary uncertainty; the challenge of exploring alternative delivery models; and the increasing/changing demands placed on the Service. In response to Members' questions, he confirmed that the budget position should hopefully be clarified by the end of the calendar year, but that annual budgeting would prove challenging going forward; that a review of all staff not working on frontline fire fighting duties was likely to be in place by April; and that technological advances meant it was vitally important when investing in new equipment to ensure that it was fit for purpose.

Following David Farries' introductory remarks Dean Mack and Steve Gourlay then took Members through the performance and prevention/protection activities elements of the report respectively. Dean highlighted details in respect of performance in meeting the targets set for each of the priorities i.e. the reductions of Accidental Dwelling Fires; Fire Casualties and Fatalities; Deliberate Fire Setting; Road Traffic Collisions; and Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals, and Steve provided details on the Fire Safety Enforcement Audits and Home Fire Safety Visits delivered in Midlothian during Q2.

Kenny Simpson remarked on a very positive meeting with retailers and management at Straiton Retail Park regarding a wide range of issues including measures that could be taken in relation to deliberate secondary fires in waste bins.

The Board welcomed the focus given to targeting high risk households in the delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits, and the other preventative work being undertaken by Service generally.

#### Decision

After further discussion, the Board agreed to note the contents of the report.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Scrutiny Report April 2016 – September 2016</b>	<b>Police Scotland</b>

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard initially from Ivor Marshall who presented a Divisional overview of some of the current issues facing Police Scotland. These including budgetary pressures similar to those faced by colleagues in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; the ongoing review of Police Stations; and the increasing/changing demands placed on the Service.

Following this the Board then heard from Kenny Simpson who presented the Scrutiny Report for Midlothian, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda. Kenny highlighted details in respect of performance in meeting the targets set for each of the priorities i.e. Tackling Substance Misuse; Protecting People; Reducing Violence; Making our Roads Safer; Reducing Antisocial Behaviour; Tackling Serious and Organised Crime; and Reducing Housebreaking.

In response to Members' questions and comments, Kenny confirmed that Officers would continue to search people on an intelligence led basis; that the antisocial behaviour currently being experienced in Dalkeith town centre was more to do with a particular spike than for any particular reason and Officers would continue to use intelligence led information to address it; and that the potential impact of National/International events was being carefully monitored, as where the likely effects of more local events, that may require targeted early interventions.

#### Decision

Following further discussion, the Board agreed to note the content of the report.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Midlothian Community Policing Team</b>	<b>Police Scotland</b>

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard from Kenny Simpson who presented a report summarising the activities of the Community Policing Team during the period July to September 2016, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Board in welcoming the report discussed whether it would be possible to incorporate details of the outcomes of the incidents and also details of any reoffending. In response Ivor Marshall advised that he was not sure if this would be possible but that he welcomed the comments and would take them on board.

Concerns in relation to the ability of Police Scotland being able to sustain the level of performance in Midlothian once the Community Action Team funding was withdrawn were expressed, albeit there was some disagreement over the impact that it would potentially have on performance levels.

**Decision**

Following the discussion, the Board agreed to note the content of the report

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The date of the next meeting was Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017.

The meeting terminated at 12.36pm.