

Minute of Meeting



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
23 August 2016	11am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Baxter	Councillor Montgomery
Councillor Parry	Councillor de Vink

In attendance:

Kevin Anderson – Head of Customer and Housing Services	Rosie Kendall – Community Safety Manager
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Chief Superintendent Ivor Marshall (Police Scotland)	Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson (Police Scotland)
David Farries – Local Senior Officer (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)	Steve Gourlay – Group Manager (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)
Bryan Rodgers (Police Scotland)	

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

- 1.1 It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Muirhead and Wallace.

2. Order of Business

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

3. Declarations of interest

- 3.1 No declarations of interest were noted.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1 The minutes of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board meeting of 24 May 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record so moved by Councillor Baxter and seconded by Councillor Montgomery.
- 4.2 David Farries requested that the minutes were amended to reflect 'Scottish Fire and Rescue Service'.

5. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Local Plan Performance Report	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard from David Farries from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service who presented the performance report for Midlothian which had been circulated with the agenda. Following which David Farries introduced Steve Gourlay who presented the prevention activity element of the report which had been circulated.

The Board then heard from Councillor Parry who wished to reaffirm her commitment for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Council to work together to support the prevention criteria. Further Councillor Parry queried some of the performance information within the presentation including detail in respect of the false alarms and the cost of these to the Fire and Rescue Service and whether there are any penalties that can be applied to this type of call out.

David Farries provided answers to these questions which included confirmation that research in England had shown that the average false alarm call out carried with it a cost of approximately £2,000 which wasn't only attributable to the cost to the service but also to businesses. Further David Farries confirmed that there was no legislative framework to impose any penalties and the focus was on engagement with the communities in relation to false alarms.

Councillor Baxter then requested further information in relation to home visits and whether there was ever any need to go back to properties following these visits and further requested comment on the budgetary pressures within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

David Farries confirmed that there is a revisit schedule in relation to home fire safety visits, however highlighted that the current system needs reviewed as too much time is spent on visits that are unnecessary. Further he confirmed that the general rule is that there are no revisits unless the Service are invited back. In relation to budgetary pressures, David Farries confirmed that there are pressures and this gives rise to redesigning services and working closely with partners. He further commented that the prevention criteria was an increasing area of work for the Service.

Councillor de Vink then asked whether visits could be made to schools in the for final year students in relation to road safety.

David Farries confirmed that the pilot programme had been for an intended audience at Edinburgh College for a target audience. Further he confirmed that the Service continues to work with schools in relation to road and fire safety.

Councillor Montgomery then sought clarification on the operational model within Penicuik specifically in relation to the day duty system and the potential impact to home fire safety visits.

David Farries responded by giving the context of the duty system in Penicuik and further reinforced that home fire safety visits are a priority particularly for vulnerable people in Penicuik.

Decision

The Board agreed:

- a) To note the content of the report.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Local Fire Plan Development	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard from David Farries who presented the report on the Local Fire Plan Development which requested that the Board approve the proposal to extend the current Midlothian Local Fire Plan until December 2017 and approve the proposed timeline in relation to developing the Midlothian Local Fire Plan. This would align with the Community Planning schedule and support better co-ordination of the planning processes.

Councillor Parry moved that the recommendations in the report were accepted and this was seconded by Councillor Baxter.

Decision

The Board agreed to:-

- a) Note the content of the report;
- b) Approve the proposal to extend the current Midlothian Local Fire Plan until December 2017; and
- c) Approve the proposed timeline to develop the next iteration of the Midlothian Local Fire Plan.

Action

Scottish Fire and Rescue

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Scrutiny Report April 2016-June 2016	Police Scotland

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard initially from Ivor Marshall who presented the national strategic position of Police Scotland including confirmation of the appointments within the national executive. Further he provided an update in relation to the position in respect of national priorities.

Following this the Board heard from Kenny Simpson who presented the Scrutiny Report for Midlothian.

Councillor Parry commented that she felt that overall the report was a really positive picture but noted her disappointment at the lower detection rate for domestic abuse, particularly in light of the impact to families and other agencies and emphasised her view that this was a vitally important area of work. Coupled with this Councillor Parry then sought clarification as to how bold Police Scotland were being in Midlothian in relation to the prevention agenda and addressing attitudes and behaviours including work being done with you people. Councillor Parry also wished to record her praise for the work being carried out by Police Scotland in Midlothian which included feedback from other partner agencies.

In response Kenny Simpson confirmed that the response to domestic abuse had massively improved and anyone that comes forward in relation to domestic abuse is afforded every support including support from partner agencies. In relation to working with young people, Kenny Simpson confirmed that work is already being done within schools through national programmes and this is in place in Midlothian.

Councillor Baxter wished to record his thanks to Police Scotland for their involvement in the Bonnyrigg Problem Solving Partnership and confirmed that he had referred constituents to the group. Further Councillor Baxter sought clarification on the introduction of additional speed cameras in the area which Kenny Simpson confirmed he would provide when this work had been fully ratified.

Councillor Montgomery sought clarification in relation to the role of the Community Action Team in relation to the performance of the police and asked for comment on the impact when the Community Action Team are no longer in place.

Kenny Simpson confirmed there would be an impact on the work of Police Scotland in Midlothian and it is his role to ensure that Police Scotland works smarter with partners and the communities to ensure they maintain the enhanced level of delivery in Midlothian.

Councillor Parry then asked for clarification in relation to the substance misuse aspect of the report and further requested information in light of the recent discussions within the Licensing Board in relation to alcohol related issues in Midlothian. Kenny Simpson confirmed that there was a correlation to the demand for Police support and the number of licensed premises and further confirmed it was his responsibility to ensure that his Officers are deployed in the most efficient way to prevent issues. Coupled with this, he confirmed that work was ongoing including with licensees to support the prevention agenda.

Rosie Kendall confirmed that, in relation to licensing, an overprovision statement had been in place for over two years. Further she confirmed that this had been recently reviewed and in particular for Dalkeith confirmed was still overprovided. Further she confirmed that the Licensing Forum and the Community Safety Partnership are working with local retailers to encourage responsible retailing.

Councillor Parry then moved that the Police and Fire and Rescue Board should write to the Licensing Board to convey what the Police and Fire and Rescue Board see as factors they should consider when applying the overprovision policy given the high demand for professional resources in relation to this issue. This was seconded by Councillor de Vink.

Councillor de Vink was then heard in relation to his concerns about housebreaking specifically where a house is broken into when the residents are there.

Kenny Simpson confirmed that there were specialist resources in place in relation to dealing with this complex issue. Further he confirmed that this was a real priority for his Officers.

Decision

Following a brief discussion, the Board agreed:

- a) To note the content of the report; and
- b) To write to the Licensing Board to convey what the Police and Fire and Rescue Board see as factors they should consider when applying the overprovision policy.

Action

Chair, Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4	Midlothian Community Policing Team	Police Scotland

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard from Kenny Simpson who presented the performance report in relation to the Midlothian Community Policing Team.

Councillor Montgomery was then heard confirming his concerns in relation to sustaining the level of performance of Police Scotland in Midlothian when the Community Action Team funding is withdrawn.

Kenny Simpson acknowledged the concerns and re-affirmed that it was his responsibility to maintain the level of performance with the resources available to him.

Decision

Following the discussion, the Board agreed to:

- a) Note the content of the report

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.5	Police Scotland Budget Considerations	Police Scotland

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard initially from Ivor Marshall who provided the context of the Police Scotland budget considerations and the challenges facing Police Scotland as a result of the financial challenges in the public sector and confirmed the purpose of this item was to gain feedback from the Board in relation to the budget considerations. Further he spoke of the focus on flattening the operational structure.

Councillors Parry and Montgomery requested confirmation in relation to what feedback was being requested and further that they felt there was insufficient information to feedback on.

Further Councillor Montgomery highlighted that previously there was a dialogue between the Police and the Council in respect of budget allocations.

Ivor Marshall confirmed that the scrutiny of the Police Scotland budget is at a national level and confirmed the areas that he had control over from a budgetary perspective. Further he confirmed there is no overtime ban in the division controlled by him and overtime is managed in a prudent way.

In relation to Officer numbers, Ivor Marshall confirmed that at a divisional level he has 924 Officers available at his disposal which are deployed in a dynamic and demand led way.

Councillor de Vink commented that he was pleased to see Police Scotland attending Community Council meetings in Midlothian and the positive changes as a result of this.

Following this Bryan Rodgers presented the Divisional prevention and tackling inequalities blueprint which has been designed to enhance service delivery and deliver the Police Scotland responsibilities as a result of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. As a result of this from a Midlothian perspective, Bryan Rodgers confirmed that the proposal was to change the current remit of the co-located Officers to one of community planning with community safety as one aspect of their work. Further the proposed changes would result in the staffing compliment changing from one Sergeant and two Constables to three Constables that would continue to be co-located with the Council's agreement.

Councillor Parry sought reassurance that as a result of the proposed changes the relationship between Police Scotland the Council is maintained.

Bryan Rodgers confirmed that the vision to increase co-production and develop the relationship. Further he confirmed that one of the posts is funded by Midlothian Council through a Service Level Agreement and this would continue. Rosie Kendall then provided additional clarification in relation to the posts including their roles and line management arrangements.

Decision

The Board agreed to:

- a) Note the content of the report; and
- b) Receive further information from Police Scotland prior to making further comment on the proposals; and
- c) Receive confirmation from Police Scotland in relation to the timescales required for comment

Action

Police Scotland

The date of the next meeting is 15 November 2016.