

Minute of Meeting



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
18 November 2019	11.05am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Curran (Chair)	Councillor McCall
Councillor Muirhead	Councillor Munro
Councillor Smail	

In attendance:

Midlothian Council Verona MacDonald, Democratic Services Team Leader	Alison White, Head of Adult Services
Police Scotland Chief Superintendent John McKenzie	Chief Inspector Arron Clinkscales Chief Inspector Jocelyn O'Connor
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Stephen Gourlay, Area Commander	Andy Anderson, Group Commander

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Parry.

2. Order of Business

The Chair advised the order of business was as per the agenda circulated.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 26 August 2019 was unanimously approved and the Chair was authorised to sign it as a correct record.

5. Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1.1	Fire and Rescue Service – Scrutiny Report Quarter 2 2019 - 2020	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Stephen Gourlay by way of an update advised of a few matters worthy of noting:-</p> <p>(i) job titles changed from Area Manager to Area Commander and Group Manager to Group Commander. He introduced Lynn Bruce recently appointed to provide assistance to the team;</p> <p>(ii) negotiations regarding pay and conditions – he hoped this would be settled soon;</p> <p>(iii) Bonfire period – the work undertaken by the Fire Service and partner agencies in the run up to bonfire night had been worthwhile and there were no reported attacks on firefighters across the East of Scotland;</p> <p>(iv) Dalkeith Fire Station – remedial work undertaken has brought the building back to relatively normal service. Future options remain to be considered but will be reported back through the Board at that time.</p> <p>Mr Gourlay also introduced Andy Anderson the new Group Commander, who was welcomed by the Chair.</p> <p>Mr Anderson then provided a summary of the Quarter 2 report. He noted the overall performance ratings therein were for the last 5 years. He noted the reduction in comparison to Quarter 1 in accidental dwelling fires but the figure had increased by 5 from the same quarter last year. He explained the majority of these fires related to single occupancy households with the main cause being cooking. He advised the Service would focus on the cause in their prevention strategies. He further noted only 9 of the properties had smoke detectors with only 4 working. With regard to fire safety visits he noted 224 had been carried out so far during the current reporting year. Referring to deliberate fires he advised the figure was slightly less than the previous year with 82% being secondary fires in the open and therefore affecting premises with an insurance valuation. He noted the Service had attended 11 road traffic collisions, an increase of one and that Midlothian was above the Scottish and East of Scotland average. Finally, he noted the increase in referrals via external partners engaging with the public.</p> <p>Questions were then put by Members. The Chair having noted that of the 9 houses with smoke detectors fitted only 4 were working asked for the reason. Mr Gourlay advised the Service did not record this but assured the Board officers prior to leaving premises would ensure detectors were fitted and working and would also provide advice to the occupants with regard to maintenance.</p> <p>Councillor Muirhead enquired about responses from householders regarding fire safety visits carried out in the vicinity of premises affected by fire. Mr Gourlay advised the Service was pro-active insofar as ensuring properties in the vicinity of properties affected by fire are visited by officers with a view to checking whether they have fire safety measures in place. He commented that householders in the</p>		

vicinity of these properties are more likely to be responsive to advice given by officers. Councillor Smaill commented that the figure for road traffic incidents did appear to be quite high and asked if the A68 was a factor. Mr Gourlay advised the A68 will have a number of casualties but generally the Service was called to high speed incidents where there was a requirement to cut people out of vehicles. He suggested this point was perhaps better answered by the Police. Councillor Smaill then enquired whether the Fire Service had been consulted by the Council regarding the refurbishment works being carried out at Jarnac Court, Dalkeith or provided advice in relation to the building being unoccupied. Mr Gourlay advised he was unaware of this but the Service would be happy to provide advice.

Decision

The Board noted the content of the report

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2.3	Police Scotland Midlothian Area Command Quarter 2 report 2019 - 2020	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Chief Superintendent McKenzie addressed the Board. He referred to matters of significant change expected over the next couple of months namely (a) the introduction of the contact assessment model anticipated by March 2020 which formed part of a separate presentation to the Board later in the meeting; (b) roll out of mobile devices to officers by February 2020. This will result in officers being able to check anything currently done at a station whilst out in the community. He advised Police visibility in the community should increase as a result of officers not requiring to go back to stations; (c) Brexit – the Force Reserve would continue and he will report back to the next meeting; (d) People trafficking – the incident in Essex had raised the profile with an increase across the Lothians of potential people trafficking which included young Vietnamese people coming forward seeking assistance and (e) Bonfires – similar to the Fire and Rescue Service, work undertaken prior to bonfire night had been worthwhile and the Police welcomed the introduction of legislation to control the sale of fireworks which they consider will make a significant contribution in future years. He then handed over to Chief Inspector Clinkscales who went through the terms of the quarter 2 report.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Clinkscales advised there continued to be high demand on the Service in the areas of mental health and missing people. Regarding missing people he note an increase from the previous year. He provided information relating to work undertaken by the Police to bring the figure down. He stated that without the work of the Community Action Team the figures in the quarter report would be much different. He summarised the number of incidents attended by the Team under the 6 key performance indicators.</p> <p>Councillor Muirhead with regard to the 94% compliance with curfew conditions checked by the Community Action Team, suggested it may be worthwhile checking the compliance figure when the Team was formed. Chief Superintendent McKenzie confirmed he would have a look at this.</p> <p>Councillor Smaill enquired whether the removal of the Community Justice teams in the Council had had an adverse effect on Police resources. Chief Inspector Clinkscales advised the Community Action Teams had experienced an increase in neighbour disputes which they had dealt with because there was nobody else in place to do this.</p>		

Decision
The Board noted the content of the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2.1	Letter from Scottish Police Authority dated 26 September 2019 – Strategic Police Plan Refresh	Alison White
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Head of Adult Services drew attention to the terms of the letter of 26 September 2019 from the Scottish Police Authority advising of the Scottish Government's consultation, open to 4 October 2019, regarding a proposed revision to the Strategic Policing Priorities. She advised that in consultation with the Chair of the Board, she had submitted a response to the Scottish Government prior to the closing date. She further advised that the Scottish Police Authority, in their aforementioned letter, was seeking views on the key strategic challenges and opportunities for the improvement of policing in Scotland which should be considered as part of the revision of the Strategic Police Plan. She advised comments required to be submitted by 22 November. She further advised she had drafted a response and would include comments individual Board Members had therein. She asked that Members who wished to contribute to the consultation forward their comments to her.</p>		
<p>The Board noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a response had been sent by the Head of Adult Services to the Scottish Government; (b) a draft response has been prepared by the Head of Adult Services to the Scottish Police Authority's consultation and; (c) any Board Member who wished to contribute to the consultation, should forward their comments to the Head of Adult Services for inclusion in the response she will send on behalf of the Board 		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2.2	Presentation – new Contact Assessment Model	Chief Inspector J. O'Connor
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Chief Inspector Jocelyn O'Connor spoke to the terms of a presentation detailing changes being implemented in relation to the contact assessment model which covered all contact from the public for assistance from the Police. She explained the new model is designed to ensure each call receives a more focused approached instead of a standardised response. She noted the new model was due to be rolled out across the Lothians by the end of March 2020.</p> <p>Thereafter, Chief Inspector O'Connor responded to questions from Board Members.</p>		
<p>The Board noted the changes being implemented with the introduction of the new Contact Assessment Model</p>		

The meeting terminated at 12.50 pm.