

Minute of Meeting



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
3 June 2019	11.00 am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Curran (Chair)	Councillor McCall
Councillor Muirhead	Councillor Munro
Councillor Parry	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 Aaron Clinkscales
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Stephen Gourlay, Area Manager	Dean Mack, Group Manager

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Order of Business

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

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

Sederunt: Councillor Munro advised that, due to another appointment, he may require to leave the meeting a short while before it concluded

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 18 February 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	Appointment of Divisional Commander	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
On behalf of the Board, the Chair welcomed Chief Superintendent John McKenzie to his first meeting. He also recognised the work undertaken by his predecessor, Chief Superintendent Lesley Clark, towards the aims of the Board.		
Decision		
Noted		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Annual Review of Policing 2018-2019 – Letter from the Scottish Police Authority requesting feedback	-
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Chair advised that given the deadline date for responses, he had circulated a draft response to Board Members and having received no comments, had arranged for the response to be submitted to the Scottish Police Authority on 31 May by the Head of Adult Services.		
Decision		
Noted		

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3.1	Police Scotland Midlothian Scrutiny Report 1 January to 31 March 2019	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Chief Superintendent McKenzie addressed the Board. He explained Superintendent Lesley Clark had retired in between Board meetings. He gave a brief summary of his background including his links to Midlothian.</p> <p>He continued by recognising the Council's commitment through the funding of the Community Action Teams. He further advised he was looking for local officers to focus on violence and the other identified priorities in terms of the annual Policing Plan. He mentioned the importance of collaborative working with partners regarding missing persons including looked after children. He further advised he would be considering how best to provide information to the Board for scrutiny purposes. He then advised of changes at executive level in Police Scotland and noted the annual Policing Plan had been published and the force would continue to struggle as a result of budget reductions including the capital budget. He commented that capital budget reductions may result in more sharing of buildings with local authorities and other public sector organisations. He handed over to Chief Inspector Clinkscales.</p>		

The Chief Inspector summarised his background and advised he was born in Midlothian and his career in the force started in the role of special constable. He then addressed the terms of the quarter report. He drew attention to the number of high risk missing persons and advised the Police had been overwhelmed by the community response to the last one. He noted that the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority, Susan Deacon, had visited Midlothian and gone out with the Community Action Team and witnessed at first hand the work undertaken by officers including detection of drugs. He advised that money recovered relating to drug seizures went to the Scottish Consolidated Fund and was not kept locally. He advised that officers shared information on a daily basis via inter-division meetings with regard to housebreaking. He then addressed missing persons and in particular looked after children and advised many repeatedly absconded and gave an example of 7 children being reported as missing in 73 incidents during the quarter. He said that in many incidents the children were not technically missing but had gone out with their friends and then been reported as missing. He emphasised the resources expended on this and advised he intended visiting the parents of the children to address the issue. He continued by summarising the remainder of the report.

Decision

Thereafter, the Board noted the content of the report.

Sederunt: Councillor Parry left the meeting at 11.25 am; Councillor Munro left the meeting at 11.33 am.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3.2	Community Action Team Scrutiny Report for January to March 2019	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Chief Inspector Clinkscales spoke to the terms of the Report which summarised the activities of the Community Action Teams during the quarter and drew attention to the positive impact the Council funded teams were having within the communities they serve.</p> <p>Councillor Muirhead, for the benefit of the new Chief Superintendent and Chief Inspector, commented on the positives of having the Council funded teams and emphasised the need to ensure they were in addition to Police resources which should already be in place in the district. He advised that the Agreement between Police Scotland and the Council provided for this but that given the changes in personnel he felt it was important to make this point.</p> <p>Chief Superintendent McKenzie acknowledged what Councillor Muirhead had said and advised he was clear the CAT officers were additional to the resources which should be in place in any event.</p> <p>Councillor McCall in also welcoming Chief Superintendent McKenzie, enquired whether there were more people going missing or whether it was as because public awareness was higher as a result of social media. Chief Superintendent McKenzie advised that work undertaken with partners did not indicate an increase but there were challenges in this field and cited the aging population whereby illnesses such as dementia may contribute. He continued by addressing missing children and advised it was crucial to understand why children go missing. He said</p>		

that in the short term speaking to parents would assist but it was not a solution. He advised that this was a challenge but not just for the Police because 47% of missing children were in the looked after category.

Further questions were put by Councillor McCall with regard to road casualties and Councillor Smaill with regard to anti-social behaviour issues and changes made within the Council to the Community Safety Team who worked with the Police.

Chief Superintendent McKenzie responded to both and advised that the A68 was one of the roads which was being targeted. He also advised that CAT officers would deal with anti-social behaviour in accordance with the Service Level Agreement in place however the local authority could not expect these officers to full take on all of the tasks previously undertaken by officers employed by the Council in the Community Safety Team.

Alison White advised she was meeting with Chief Inspector Clinkscales in the coming week to discuss expectations with regard to work undertaken on anti-social behaviour issues.

Councillor Muirhead commented that having considered the statistics within the report he wonder which communities had seen the reductions listed. He explained that, for people living in the community in and around Gorebridge, it did not feel like there had been a reduction in crime. He enquired whether a further breakdown of the figures was available. Chief Superintendent McKenzie advised he was keen to provide the Board with meaningful statistics and that he did have data which goes down to ward level and offered to come back to the next meeting with further information. He confirmed that some communities have not enjoyed the same decreases as others.

Decision

The Board noted the terms of the Report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4.1	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Midlothian Local Performance Report – Quarter 4, 1 January to 31 March 2019	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) the new Chief Fire Officer for Scotland had now been in post for a couple of months and is now assisted by a new Deputy Chief Officer and 2 new Assistant Chief Officers. The east of Scotland now has a new Chief Officer.</p> <p>(ii) the training centre at Newbridge was nearing completion and within 6 – 8 weeks the training team should be on site;</p> <p>(iv) he had submitted a business case to get some additional resources which would support, amongst others, the Penicuik station.</p> <p>Dean Mack then provided the Board with a summary of the Quarter 4 report. He advised that 5 of the reporting outcomes were below the previous years' figures and that over the last 5 years Midlothian had seen a reduction across the outcomes. However, given the nature of the incidents reported on during 284 home fire safety visits these figures could rise significantly in the near future.</p> <p>Councillor McCall, with regard to the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms</p>		

in dwellings, asked whether information was available in relation to properties rented out. Mr Mack advised he did not have this information to hand but could provide it. Councillor McCall then enquired with regard to “Stair Aware” mentioned in the report. Mr Gourlay advised it related to new domestic legislation in relation to the storing of combustibles in common stairs which had an estimated introduction timescale of 2 years.

The Chair, with reference to a discussion at the meeting in November 2018, enquired whether the number of fire safety referrals had increased. Mr Mack confirmed they had increased significantly as a result of Council officers receiving training on the referral toolkit.

Decision

The Board noted the terms of the Quarter 4 report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4.2	Draft Strategic Plan 2019 – 2022 Consultation – Report by Area Manager	S. Gourlay
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
Mr Gourlay spoke to the terms of the report which advised of the consultation relating to the draft Strategic Plan which closed on 18 July 2019.		
The Chair advised he would provide feedback via the Head of Adult Services prior to the closing date for submissions.		
Decision		
Head of Adult Services in consultation with the Chair to provide feedback on the Draft Strategic Plan prior to the closing date for submissions.		

The meeting terminated at 12.30 pm.