

Minute of Meeting

Police Fire and Rescue Board
Monday 20 December 2021

Item No: 4.1



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
30 August 2021	11.00 am	Virtual Meeting by MS Teams

Present:

Councillor Smaill (Chair)
Councillor MCall
Councillor Muirhead
Councillor Parry

In Attendance:

Midlothian Council	Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place
	Janet Ritchie, Democratic Services Officer
Police Scotland	Superintendent Debbie Forrester
	Chief Inspector Arron Clinkscales
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Stephen Gourlay, Area Commander
	Andy Anderson, Group Commander

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apology

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Curran and Councillor Munro.

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Smaill was nominated as Chair by Councillor McCall and seconded by Councillor Parry

2. Order of Business

The order of business was as per the Agenda circulated.

3. Declarations of interest

There was no declarations of interest received.

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 31 May 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record subject to the following spelling error, it should read Superintendent Mertes not Mettes.

Matters Arising: With regards to Item 5.2.2 Fly Tipping Derek Oliver in responding to a question raised regarding Fly tipping advised that a report was presented to Council on developing a Midlothian Environmental Crime Strategy and that in partnership with neighbourhood services a new Midlothian Neighbourhood and Environment Improvement group had been set up.

5. Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Midlothian Quarter 1 Scrutiny Performance Report	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The performance report provided information on the prevention, protection and operational response activities within the Midlothian for Quarter 1 of 2021-22 (1st April – 30th June 2021) including information on the year to date.</p> <p>The Scottish Government provided an overarching vision for public services. This vision supported by 16 National Outcomes, which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for Midlothian by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the area.</p> <p>Stephen Gourlay in presenting this report highlighted the new legislation relating to domestic dwellings smoke detectors. He further advised that there is a requirement that all households must meet the new standards of the housing Act by February 2022.</p>		

With regards to COVID recovery response phase he advised that there is still reduction in staff due to self-isolations but acknowledged this was not as bad as previous but did still cause some issues, however at the moment this was not relevant to Midlothian at this time.

Thereafter Stephen Gourlay responded to questions regarding the cost to households on the interlinked alarms and heat detectors in kitchens. Derek Oliver also commented on the Council properties having the interlinked alarms and ensuring that these were all up to the new standard. Messages were also being pushed on Social Media regarding this.

Andy Anderson then highlighted the 6 key indicators and advised on the measures over the last 5 years. He then provided a more detailed update on each of the key indicators from the local Performance Plan for Midlothian and an update on the Prevention and Protection Activities and Partnership Working as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. He also provided information on a Bus which had been developed by inmates and run by ex-offenders which would be visiting Midlothian schools. He advised although this was open to any child, it was specific to children who may be going down the offender pathway and that the feedback on this had been very positive.

He further advised on the National Campaign on reducing Fire Alarm Signals and that Stephen Gourlay would provide a brief presentation on reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS).

Thereafter Officers responded to questions and comments with regards derelict buildings and risk of fires and water related incidents and provided an update on the national initiative on raising water awareness and the partnership working with the Police and Scottish water in raising this awareness at Gladhouse and Glencorse reservoirs where the water rescue teams were in attendance showing equipment and raising the profile of safety measure around water.

Further discussion took place on smoke alarms and the implications of the new legislation. Also discussed was the issues with parking at Gladhouse Reservoir and it was acknowledged while there can be a number of cars parked no particular issues had been raised and the water rescue team had managed to get in and out without any issues, it was also noted that Gladhouse is owned by Scottish Water and Wildlife Trust. With regards to wild swimming and paddle boards it was confirmed that as well as the attendance at these sites on raising water awareness a water safety campaign with various organisations was getting pushed over social media.

Decision

The Board noted the content of the report

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Fire Service – Update on live consultation for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS)	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
Stephen Gourlay provided the committee with a brief presentation on reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) and the 12 week public consultation which was in process and highlighted the three options in the public consultation and the key stages in the implementing the preferred option. He also advised that the public consultation was on the SFRS website and that the Service wanted to ensure that there was full participation on the consultation.		
Decision		
To note the presentation.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Midlothian Area Commander Quarter 1 Report	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Superintendent Debbie Forrester in introducing this report commented on ECR and 111 call handling and the difficulty within the performance reporting to break this down into different areas but this would be presented to the Policing Performance Committee on 1 September 2021.</p> <p>Superintendent Forrester provided details on the following before responding to questions comments raised by Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP 26 climate conference and the impact on policing and partners during October and November 2021. • The increase in drug death and the rise in Midlothian. • Recruitment resourcing • Dalkeith Custody Facility – pilot Dalkeith Custody used as a remote site processing custodies, date still to be secured. • Changes to the report where data presented would be a 5 year average. <p>Arron Clinkscales then highlighted the main points contained with the Executive summary and advised that the weekly meetings with Mr Oliver and the exceptional partnership working would continue.</p> <p>He then spoke to the Quarter 1 report providing a brief update on each separate category of crime within the report highlighting some of the main challenges and also some of the good partnership working in Midlothian. He also advised that a new Counter Terrorist Officer has been appointed.</p> <p>There followed a discussion where Arron Clinkscales and Superintendent Forrester responded to questions and comments regarding Domestic abuse, Fireworks, Sectarianism and Social Media.</p>		
Decision		
The Board noted the contents of the Report.		

Agenda No.	Subject Matter	
5.4	Request to consider date of November Meeting	
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
A request had been received from Superintendent Debbie Forrester regarding the next date of the Police Fire and Rescue Board and if this could be rearranged due the impact the COP 26 climate conference will have on services during 29 October and 19 November 2021. A brief discussion took place and it was agreed that to consider changing this date until a date in December 2021 and identified 20 December 2021 as a possible date.		
Decision		
The Board agreed to change the date of the November meeting and to pass to Councillor Curran, Chair to consider 20 December 2021 at 11 am for this meeting.		
Action		
Councillor Stephen Curran, Chair		

The meeting terminated at 13.00 pm