

Minute of Meeting



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
30 May 2017	11.00am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Cassidy	Councillor Curran
Councillor Muirhead	Councillor Munro
Councillor Parry	Councillor Smail

In attendance:

Midlothian Council	
Kevin Anderson, Head of Customer and Housing Services	Verona MacDonald, Democratic Services Team Leader
Police Scotland	
Chief Superintendent Ivor Marshall	Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	
David Farries, Area Manager	Steve Gourlay, Group Manager
Dean Mack, Group Manager	

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 circulated. It was noted that the Fire and Rescue Service wished to table an additional Report and that this would be dealt with by the Chair once elected.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

It was noted that the Minute of Meeting held on 21 February 2017 had been approved by the Council on 28 March 2017 and therefore there were no outstanding Minutes requiring to be approved by the Board.

5. Public Reports

No.	Title	Presented by:
5.1	Election of Chair	Verona MacDonald
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chair. Councillor Curran was nominated by Councillor Muirhead, seconded by Councillor Smaill. Councillor Parry was nominated by Councillor Cassidy but the nomination did not find a seconder and therefore fell. The Clerk, having established that there were no other nominations for the position, confirmed Councillor Curran was elected Chair and asked him to come forward and preside over the meeting.		
Decision		
Councillor Curran elected Chair.		

No.	Title	Presented by:
5.2	Overview of the Board	Verona MacDonald
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
Verona MacDonald addressed the Board and, in particular, for the assistance of newly elected Members, gave a verbal overview of the Board's remit in terms of scrutiny and performance of Police and Fire plans and reports together with consideration of proposals as part of consultation processes and recommending improvements to local services. She further detailed the schedule of meetings and the process for consideration, approval and recording of Minutes of Meetings.		

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Police Scotland Midlothian Scrutiny Report Quarter 4 2016-17	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
Ivor Marshall addressed the Board and narrated to Members examples of information to expect from Police Scotland and the format used. He then handed over to Chief Inspector Simpson.		
Chief Inspector Simpson, spoke to the terms of the Report and highlighted performance in meeting the targets set for each of the priorities, namely Tackling Substance Misuse; Protecting People; Reducing Violence; Making our Roads Safer; Reducing Antisocial Behaviour; Tackling Serious and Organised Crime; and Reducing Housebreaking. He advised of the measures being employed by the Police in relation to alcohol misuse under the heading "Tackling Substance		

Misuse". He advised that some figures had changed due to the manner in which they are now recorded. In particular, he mentioned the change under the "Protecting People" heading whereby incidents are now screened to identify those most at risk. He advised that a change to the definition of a serious assault had led to an increase under the "Reducing Violence" heading. He mentioned the relevance of the youth community officers who work at the Lasswade school campus and the planned roll out of this to all 6 secondary schools in Midlothian. The community officers encourage young people to report crimes via a web based system through the school. So far some good information had been gathered. Under the "Making our Roads Safer" heading, a lot of work had been done regarding the A6095 with more measures such as temporary speed restrictions planned. He advised the road was heavily policed with a view to changing driving habits. He also mentioned the increase in motor bikers on the roads, thought to be connected to the better weather and advised that unmarked Police motor bikes had been deployed to educate users to respect the roads and ensure bikers are aware of the Police presence.

Questions were then put by Councillors Parry, Cassidy, Muirhead and the Chair and subsequently responded to relating to matters including the Best Bar None Scheme relating to licensed premises; hate crime, anti-social behaviour, the deployment of youth community officers, protecting vulnerable people and domestic abuse.

Decision

The Board agreed to:-

- (a) note the content of the Report;
- (b) request Police Scotland to circulate details of the Best Bar None scheme to all Elected Members to allow them to promote the scheme within their respective wards.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4	Community Policing Team Midlothian Activity Summary January – March 2017	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
Chief Inspector Simpson spoke to the terms of the Report which summarised the activities of the Community Policing Team during the quarter of January to March 2017. Thereafter, he responded to questions raised by Councillor Muirhead relating to the use of plain clothed officers.		
Decision		
The Board noted the terms of the Report.		

Prior to consideration of the following Report, the Chair advised of the request from the Fire and Rescue Service to circulate an additional Report entitled "Local Fire and Rescue Plan Review 2017", which was for information purposes. The Board subsequently agreed that the Report be circulated to Members.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.5	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Midlothian Local Performance Report – Quarter 4, 1 January to 31 March 2017	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>David Farries, by way of introduction, narrated to Members examples of information to expect from the Fire and Rescue Service and the format used. He then handed over to Dean Mack.</p>		
<p>Dean Mack provided a summary of the Quarter 4 Report noting the performances within the 5 objectives making up the main focus for local service delivery in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Midlothian 2014-2017, namely, (1) Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires; (2) Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities; (3) Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting; (4) Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions; (5) Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals together with the Fire Safety Enforcement Audits and Home Fire Safety Visits delivered in Midlothian.</p>		
<p>It was noted that during the quarter there had been an increase in deliberate fires and a slight increase in domestic fires. Dean explained that the Midlothian figures are low so any increase is very noticeable. He advised that accidental dwelling fires were slightly above the Scotland and East Service area figure. He noted the work being undertaken to gather information on houses with persons over the age of 65 years living alone and the assistance provided by partner agencies in this regard. He advised that the fitting of smoke detectors meant fires are now more contained to the room of origin meaning less damage and fewer casualties. He drew Members' attention to the increase in fire alarm signals and advised this had steadily increased over the last 5 years with most relating to equipment failure.</p>		
<p>Thereafter, questions were put by Councillors Muirhead, Cassidy and Smaill and subsequently answered by Mr Mack.</p>		
Decision		
<p>The Board agreed to note the terms of the Quarter 4 report.</p>		

The meeting terminated at 12.40 pm.