

Minute of Meeting



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
Monday 29 August 2022	11.00 am	Virtual Meeting by MS Teams

Present:

Councillor McKenzie (Chair)
Councillor Alexander
Councillor Curran
Councillor McEwan
Councillor Smail

Also Present:

Councillor Pottinger

In Attendance:

Midlothian Council	Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place
	Mike Broadway, Democratic Services Officer
Police Scotland	Chief Inspector James Robertson
	Superintendent Alan Carson
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Hilary Sangster, Area Commander
	Garry Douglas, Station Commander
	David Girrity, Group Commander

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair, Councillor McKenzie welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board.

2. Order of Business

The order of business was as set out in the Agenda.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were intimated at this stage of the proceedings.

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of Meeting of 30 May 2022 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising – Agreed to revisit opportunities to arrange meet and greets with colleagues from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

5. Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Midlothian Scrutiny Performance Report Quarter 1 2022-23	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 2022-23 (1st April – 30th June 2022) 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>Hilary Sangster highlighted that consultation on the draft Strategic Plan, which had been reported on at the previous meeting of the Board in May (paragraph 5.2 refers), had now concluded and that once it had gone through the necessary governance, the Strategic Plan would be published. This in turn would lead to a review of the Midlothian Local Plan, which would include input from local stakeholders. She also advised that the East Area, which included Midlothian, was current undergoing an HMFI inspection, the outcome of which would be known by the end of the current financial year.</p> <p>Garry Douglas then took the Board through the performance information presented in the report making particular reference to the performance summary and how the priorities using the 6 key indicators were being met. He thereafter responded to questions from Board Members concerning tackling issues relating to education and fire prevention, and also the new legislation</p>		

relating to domestic dwellings smoke detectors. David Girrity confirmed that there was a targeted approaching being adopted to this and that ultimately no domestic property that they visited would be left without some form of protection. Derek Oliver also commented on the position relating to Council properties having the interlinked alarms and ensuring that these were all up to the new standard. With regards to preparations for Bonfire night arrangements were being put in place by both the Service and by the Council.

David Girrity concluded the presentation by provided an update on the Prevention and Protection Activities and Partnership Working as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Thereafter Officers responded to further questions and comments with regards major buildings fires and the process for notifying local Ward Members, preparations for the increased potential risk of fires as a result of climate change and processes for the sharing of information as a result of the partnership working with the Police, Council and other Services.

Decision

The Board noted the content of the report

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Midlothian Quarter 1 Scrutiny Report 2022/23	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Chief Inspector James Robertson in introducing the report drew particular attention to the Executive Summary (page 33 of the Agenda Document Pack), highlighting the annual 'Your Police' survey which provided an opportunity to input into the next Local Policing Plan 2023-26. He also confirmed that the issue raised at the previous meeting (paragraph 5.4 refers) regarding the possible provision of national average comparison figures had been raised and would hopefully be addressed in future reports. The Chair acknowledged, and thanked him for the update.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Robertson then went on to provide an update on each separate category as detailed within the report -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing Persons. • Domestic Abuse. • Hate Crime • Sexual Crimes. • Drugs Supply, Production and Cultivation. • Crimes of Violence. • Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour. • Dishonesty. • Housebreaking. • Road Safety • Tackling Serious Organised Crime. 		

- Midlothian Community Action Team (MCAT)

He highlighting some of the main challenges and also some of the good partnership working in Midlothian, before responding to questions and comments raised by Members of the Board regarding the definition of Hate Incidents/Crimes; Drug Death statistics and the sharing of information with partners in order to allow preventative/diversionary work to take place; measures to address Anti-Social Behaviour, especially in the run up to Bonfire night; possibility of a separate individual report on Rural Crime matters; the potential impacts of the Cost of Living Crisis; under-age alcohol sales and the benefits of community engagement, with a reaffirmation from Superintendent Carson of a zero tolerance approach to any actions aimed against those who so engaged.

Decision

The Board noted the contents of the Report.

6. Private Reports

No private items for discussion

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 7 November 2022 at 11.00am

The meeting terminated at 12.44 pm