

Minute of Meeting



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
23 February 2016	11am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Baxter	Councillor Montgomery
Councillor Muirhead	Councillor Parry
Councillor Wallace	Councillor de Vink

In attendance:

Kevin Anderson – Head of Customer and Housing Services	Rosie Kendall – Community Safety Manager
Eibhlin McHugh – Joint Director, Health and Social Care	

Chief Superintendent Gill Imery (Police Scotland)	Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson (Police Scotland)
Alasdair Perry – Local Senior Officer (Fire and Rescue Scotland)	Mike Jaffray – East & Midlothian Group Commander (Fire and Rescue Scotland)
David Hume – Scottish Police Authority	John Beresford (Scottish Police Authority)

Sederunt – The Joint Director, Health and Social Care held the Chair at the commencement of the meeting pending the resolution of the item of urgent business to appoint a Chair to the Board.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

- 1.1 It was noted that no apologies had been received from Elected Members.
- 1.2 The Joint Director, Health and Social Care welcomed everyone to the meeting and once introductions of the participants of the Board were made, the Joint Director, Health and Social Care confirmed the following:
- a) The Police and Fire and Rescue Board is a formal committee of Midlothian Council and is set up under the Standing Orders of the Council.
 - b) The Elected Members of the Board are voting members of the Board whilst other members of the Board are non voting
 - c) The Board's remit is:
 - Scrutiny of Police and Fire Plans;
 - Performance Reporting and statistical reports of complaints and policing and fire and rescue Midlothian;
 - Notification of any Midlothian policing and fire rescue matters subject to independent national review bodies;
 - Providing comments/replies on any consultation documents pertaining to policing and fire and rescue services; and
 - Recommending improvements in local policing and fire and rescue service.

2. Order of Business

- 2.1 The order of business was confirmed as outlined in the agenda that had been circulated.
- 2.2 It was also confirmed that two urgent items of business were to be included in the agenda:
- The appointment of the Chair of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board
 - Designation of Local Senior Officer – letter received from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

3. Declarations of interest

- 3.1 No declarations of interest were noted.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1 As this was the first meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board, no previous minutes were submitted for approval.

Agenda No.	Business	Discussion led by:
4B	Appointment of the Chair of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board	Joint Director, Health and Social Care

Summary of discussion

The Joint Director, Health and Social Care invited nominations for the role of Chair of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board.

Councillor Wallace nominated Councillor Parry to take the role of Chair and this was seconded by Councillor Baxter.

No further nominations were heard.

Decision

The Board agreed:

- a) Councillor Parry should assume the role of Chair of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board.

Sederunt – At this point the Joint Director, Health and Social Care handed the Chair to Councillor Parry.

Agenda No.	Business	Discussion led by:
4C	Designation of Local Senior Officer	Councillor Parry

Summary of discussion

The Chair referred to a letter, that was tabled as an item of urgent business, dated 10 February 2016 from Alasdair Hay of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service confirming the designation of Local Senior Officer. The letter confirmed that as a result of the promotion of Alasdair Perry to Deputy Assistant Chief Officer, David Farries will assume the role of Local Senior Officer.

Decision

The Board agreed:

- a) To note the content of the letter.

5. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Fire Service – Midlothian Report – Quarter 3 2015/16	Alasdair Perry – Local Senior Officer (Fire and Rescue Scotland) and Mike Jaffray – East & Midlothian Group Commander (Fire and Rescue Scotland)

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard from Alasdair Perry who introduced the report and provided an overarching strategy update in relation to the current structure within the Fire Service. Following this Alasdair Perry introduced Mike Jaffray who spoke to the report that had been circulated.

Councillor Baxter requested clarification on the definition of ‘deliberate fires’ and the Board heard that this referred to malicious fires and not where there was a controlled burn.

Councillor de Vink was heard in support of enhanced home visits as many households would benefit. Alasdair Perry confirmed that enhanced home visits referred to a situation where other agencies were involved with the situation e.g. social work. However 280 Home Safety visits had been completed in the reporting period and the focus of these visits was about developing a preventative and holistic approach to risk in the home.

Councillor Muirhead requested further information in relation to the effectiveness of smoke detectors in reducing house fires. Alasdair Perry confirmed that smoke detectors had proved to be very successful and the number of house fires had reduced. Coupled with this where there were house fires, the severity of injuries was less due to the warning provided by the smoke detector. Mike Jaffray added to this by stating that smoke detectors were also part of supporting safety in the home e.g. encouraging people to switch electrical items off as part of their routine and having an evacuation plan.

Councillor Parry asked for further information in relation to non-fire emergencies and whether there were any trends in relation to roads in Midlothian. Mike Jaffray confirmed the Fire Service were involved in more medical calls including cardiac arrest (out of hospital) and all appliances now carry defibrillators. The Fire and Rescue Service are seeking to train as many people as possible and members of the public can now attend Fire stations for training.

Decision

The Board agreed:

- a) To note the content of the report.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Sale of Fireworks in Midlothian	Rosie Kendall

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard from Rosie Kendall who presented the report which followed on from a motion to Midlothian Council on 15 December 2015. A summary of the Partnership discussion held earlier that morning was provided, highlighting the Partnerships desire to focus on preventative activity.

Stephen Thomson, Principal Trading Standards and Laboratory Manager, also provided the Board with confirmation of the requirements of Local Authorities in relation to the sale of fireworks and stated that in Midlothian there are currently 11 licensed premises – 10 of which require to re-apply on an annual basis and 1 currently holds a five year license.

Councillor Baxter requested confirmation about the possibility of lobbying the UK Government through Midlothian's M.P. and Councillor Parry highlighted that of the two options (changing the legislation and devolving the matter), lobbying to devolve the matter may prove more effective as the UK legislation was only recently implemented..

Councillor Montgomery was heard in support of progressing a solution for Midlothian and confirmed that he was already in discussion with the Midlothian MP. Further Councillor Montgomery expressed his view that, perhaps as part reducing the risk presented by the sale of fireworks, that retailers could adopt a voluntary non sale of fireworks to anyone under 21 year old.

Councillor Parry was heard in support of Councillor Montgomery's concerns about the sale of fireworks and further was heard in support of the preventative action that had already taken place.

Following further discussion from the Board, Councillor Parry concluded the discussion by stating the as everyone was in agreement that further action was taken, that the recommendations were taken forward.

Decision

The Board agreed to:-

- a) Support the adoption of a voluntary ban on the sale of fireworks to those under 21 years old with the support of the Trading Standards team within the Council;
- b) Continue to liaise with the Midlothian MP in relation to lobbying the UK Government for a change to the legislation or devolve the matter; and
- c) The Board would receive a further update in relation to the work that had been done.

Action

Trading Standards Team

Elected Members

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Community Policing Teams	Chief Superintendent Gill Imery (Police Scotland) and Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson (Police Scotland)

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard from Chief Superintendent Gill Imery who provided an update of the overarching strategy of Police Scotland and the relationship with community policing. Following this the Chief Superintendent invited Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson to speak to the report that had been circulated. The Chief Inspector concluded by recommending that the Board approve the suggested model of Community Policing.

Councillor Muirhead requested further information in relation to the impact on communities as a result of the reduction in numbers and the Chief Superintendent confirmed that whilst there was a reduction in numbers there was flexibility in relation to how the resources was deployed.

Decision

Following a brief discussion, the Board agreed:

- a) To note the proposed models in Section 3 of the appended report; and
- b) That the proposed model outlined in 3.2, of the Police briefing document attached as appendix 1 to the report, is adopted.

Action

Police Scotland

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4	Police Scotland – Proposed Development of Current Model - Midlothian	Chief Superintendent Gill Imery (Police Scotland) and Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson (Police Scotland)

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard initially from Chief Superintendent Gill Imery who provided the strategic context of the development of the current policing model in Midlothian. Following this the Board heard from Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson who provided further detail in relation to the feedback that had been received and how this had shaped the proposals for the model.

Councillor Parry was heard in support of the work that had already been done.

Following this the Board heard from Councillor Muirhead who requested further information in relation to how the Police resources would be split across the

division and raised concerns about the potential impact to communities – particularly complaints from residents of Midlothian feeling insecure in their communities. The Chief Superintendent provided further clarity in relation to the proposed model and the demand response for each of the Local Authority areas. Further the Chief Inspector confirmed he would be happy to discuss further with any Elected Member.

Decision

Following the discussion, the Board agreed to:

- a) Note the content of the report

Sederunt – During the course of the debate in relation to Report 5.5, Midlothian House had to be evacuated due to a fire alarm activation. Therefore the Board meeting was suspended at approximately 12.20pm and reconvened at approximately 12.45pm

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.5	Police Scotland – Midlothian Report Apr-Dec 2015	Chief Superintendent Gill Imery (Police Scotland) and Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson (Police Scotland)

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard from Chief Superintendent Gill Imery and Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson who spoke to the report and provided a further commentary in relation to key aspects of the report.

The Board then heard from Councillor Parry who raised a query in relation to the age profile of offenders. The Chief Inspector responded raising concerns about the potential for young people to be exploited by organised crime and this was something that was being investigated further.

Councillor de Vink raised concerns in instances where it has been reported in some instances that there was no Police response following a domestic break-in. The Chief Inspector expressed his disappointment if there had been no Police response as this was a focus area and if no immediate response could be offered confirmation as to when an officer would be deployed should be given.

Councillor Montgomery requested further information in relation to the impact of the change in legislation in Scotland with regards to drinking and driving. The Chief Superintendent confirmed there had been an increase in people's awareness and was supporting a change in behaviour.

Councillor Muirhead asked if the Police felt that they were receiving the appropriate support from the Procurator Fiscal. The Chief Inspector confirmed that Sheriffs have a part to play and there is a variance in relation to judgements. Further the Chief Inspector confirmed that the Police continue to lobby the Crown Office in relation to this.

Councillor Parry requested further information in relation to remote reporting sites and the Chief Superintendent confirmed that these were under utilised in

Midlothian. The Chief Inspector confirmed that he would circulate the list of sites to the Board.

Decision

The Board agreed to:

- a) Note the content of the report.

Action

Police Scotland

Sederunt – The Chief Inspector confirmed that whilst Report 6.1 had been marked as ‘restricted’ he was happy that the information contained in the report could be disclosed publically.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
6.1	Community Policing Team Activity Report – October – December 2015	Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson (Police Scotland)

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Board heard from Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson who spoke to the report outlining the Community Policing Team Activity report.

Decision

Following the presentation the Board agreed to:

- a) Note the contents of the report.
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