

Minute of Meeting

Police, Fire and Rescue Board
Wednesday 15 November 2023
Item No: 4.1



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday 21 August 2023	1.00 pm	Hybrid Meeting

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Midlothian Council	Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place
	Janet Ritchie, Democratic Services Officer
Police Scotland	Chief Superintendent Alwyn Bell
	James Robertson, Midlothian Local Area Commander
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	David Morrison, Prevention, Enforcement and Community Engagement Lead
	Gary Douglas, Station Commander

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair, Councillor McKenzie welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board and reflected upon the live Police incident in Newtongrange.

2. Order of Business

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

3. Declarations of interest

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

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of Meeting held on 15 June 2023 was submitted and approved as a correct record, moved by Councillor McKenzie and seconded by Councillor McEwan.

5. Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Police Scotland Midlothian Q1 Scrutiny Report 2023/24	Police Scotland (PS)
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Chair welcomed Chief Superintendent Alwyn Bell who was filling in for Catriona Paton and would be presenting the Police report today. Chief Superintendent advised on the live investigation regarding a shopkeeper in Newtongrange at the weekend and that the community engagement was ongoing but could provide no further details at this time.</p> <p>Chief Superintendent advised that it had been a busy summer period and provided an update on Scotland's new Chief Constable, Jo Farrell who took command of the national police service on 90 October 2023.</p> <p>Thereafter, Chief Inspector James Robertson, introduced the report and went on to provide an update on each separate category as detailed within the report, giving examples of the position in Midlothian -</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).

The Board expressed their thanks for the report and commented positively on the work with community councils, the circulation of the MCAT reports and the partnership working with the local community officers. Also raised was reports on crime pertaining to assaults and theft in schools within school hours and it was noted that data would be brought back on this.

Further discussion took place with regards to supply of drugs and weapons and that there was no significant increase in Midlothian, also discussed was the MCAT patrols and the work with school liaison officers. The Board noted the bail curfew checks success rated and it was confirmed that not all offenders are tagged, this was dependent on the seriousness of the crime.

The Chair advised that he had been contacted by a resident with regards to a stolen vehicle which had been impounded and the bill relating this, Chief Inspector Robertson in responding advised he was aware of this issue and would discuss this offline.

Decision

The Board noted the content of the report

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Midlothian Q1 Report 2023/24	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Garry Douglas, Station Commander advised that he was deputising for Hilary Sangster and Mark Landels and introduced the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Midlothian Q1 Report.</p> <p>The Station Commander outlined the Performance summary and the 6 performance indicators and that out of the 6 indicators rag ratings there were 4 green and 2 red. He further provided a brief update in particular with regards to the 2 red ratings, fire casualties fatal and non-fatal and Road Traffic Collisions.</p> <p>The Station Commander then responded to questions and comments with regards to torched vehicles and the responsibility of these being removed and disposed of. Mr Oliver confirmed that the Council has a reporting mechanism on the council website for reporting these vehicles and the Council will dispose of them.</p> <p>David Morrison, Prevention, Enforcement and Community Engagement Lead then provided a brief overview of Midlothian Prevention and Protection activities highlighting the Fire Safety Enforcement Audits, Home Fire Safety Visits, Home</p>		

Fire Safety Referrals, Partnership Working/Youth Engagement and Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Thereafter responded to questions and comments raised by the Board with regards to fire safety referrals, combustible materials lying in gardens and the partnership working between fire service, police and the council in addressing this. Also the positive reduction in unwanted fire alarms call outs and the reasons for this.

Also noted were the fire safety audits carried out with regards to Ukrainian refugees and the positive work done by the community action team.

Decision

The Board noted the contents of the Report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Protective Services	Chief Officer Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Chief Officer Place, Derek Oliver addressed the Board on those Protective Services functions Environmental Health and Trading Standards, Licensing and Emergency Planning, which overlapped activities carried out by the Police, and Fire and Rescue Services, highlighting the work which had been undertaken during the course of Quarter 1.</p> <p>The Board enquired as to the illegal purchases of vapes and the disposal of these and it was confirmed that the environmental team are engaging with the public on how these should be disposed of and any businesses selling these illegally are reported to the Procurator Fiscal.</p> <p>The Board discussed the reduction in speed limits and the timeline for implementing this, Mr Oliver advised that this will be a phased programme which may take up to 9 months and that they are working closely with MCAT focussing on priority areas first - where road safety concerns have been raised, areas with increase in accidents and safe routes to schools.</p> <p>In responding to a question raised by Councillor Curran regarding a trading standard issue with council premises let Mr Oliver advised that it would be in the lease agreement and if they were not a fit and proper person someone else could carry on the business.</p> <p>The Board discussed abandoned vehicles and Mr Oliver explained that there are procedures in place and various checks are done before a vehicle is uplifted and taken away.</p>		
Decision		
The Board noted the Report.		

6. Private Reports

No private items for discussion

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 21 August 2023 at 13.00pm

The meeting terminated at 12.42 pm.