

Minute of Meeting

Police, Fire and Rescue Board
Thursday 15 June 2023
Item No: 4.1



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
Monday 6 February 2022	11.00 am	Virtual Meeting by MS Teams

Present:

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

Also Present:

Councillor Parry
Councillor Winchester

In Attendance:

Midlothian Council	Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place
	Mike Broadway, Democratic Services Officer
Police Scotland	Chief Inspector James Robertson
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Hilary Sangster, Area Commander
	Wesley Robertson,
	Mark Landels, 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. Before proceeding to the formal agenda business, Councillor McKenzie, made reference to the tragic events which had occurred during the large-scale fire at the former Jenners building in Edinburgh, expressing condolences on behalf of the Council to Firefighter Barry Martin's family, friends and colleagues in the Fire and Rescue Service at his sad passing, and remarking that it was a stark reminder of the dangers colleagues serving in our Blue Light Services faced when attending such incidents. A view which was shared by other Board Members, who also expressed their sympathies.

Thereafter, apologies for absence were received on behalf of David Girrity (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) and Catriona Paton (Police Scotland).

2. Order of Business

The Clerk advised that Item 5.1 - SFRS Midlothian Scrutiny Performance Report Q2 2022/23 had been circulated separately from the main Agenda Pack as a 'to follow' paper. Otherwise 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 Minutes of Meeting held on 7 November 2022 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Before moving onto the Public Reports, the Chair, Councillor McKenzie, advised the Board that the Council at its meeting on 13 December 2022 (paragraph 8.4 refer) had agreed to approve an interim change to the current remit in order that the Board could receive regular performance reporting from the Council's Protective Services. The reason behind this change being that these Services work closely with Police, and Fire & Rescue Services and by reviewing the performance of all services holistically, this would foster stronger partnership working and deliver better outcomes for keeping Midlothian's citizens free from risk and harm and ensuring public safety.

5. Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	SFRS Midlothian Scrutiny Performance Report Quarter 3 2022-23	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The performance report provided information on the prevention, protection and operational response activities within the Midlothian for Quarter 3 of 2022-23 (1st October – 31st December 2022) including information on the year to date figures.

The Scottish Government provided an overarching vision for public services. This vision supported by 11 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.

Hilary Sangster in introducing the report highlighted that the Strategic Plan, the Draft of which had been reported on at the May Board meeting (paragraph 5.2 refers), had now be approved, and that this would in turn lead to a review of the Midlothian Local Plan, which would include input from local stakeholders.

Mark Landel 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 along with colleagues to questions from Board Members concerning joint working with the Council's Countryside Rangers Service; the vulnerability of large buildings in the local Midlothian area; compliance with the updated requirements for smoke detectors in domestic dwellings and whether these were adequately understood and being implemented by householders; and the increase in flooding incidents.

Decision

The Board noted the content of the report

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Police Scotland Midlothian Quarter 3 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 13 of the Agenda Document Pack), highlighting that issues identified through the 'Your Police' online survey complemented by a review of the existing Plan, analysis of existing data and a scan of emerging threat and risk, had been used to inform the draft Local Police Plan 2023-26; copies of which had been circulated to all elected Members. Following completion of the statutory 3 month consultation phase, and with the agreement of the four respective Police & Fire and Rescue Boards, it was intended to have a Consultation Draft of the Plan in place by the due date of 1st April 2023. As this was prior to the next scheduled Board meeting on 15th May 2023, the Board was asked if it would be happy to proceed to the Consultation Draft on that basis, and this was agreed.</p>		

Chief Inspector Robertson then went on to provide an update on each separate category as detailed within the report, giving examples of the position in Midlothian -

- 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 also highlighting the main challenges and some of the good partnership working in Midlothian, before responding to questions and comments raised by Members of the Board regarding off road motorbikes and opportunities for the local communities to provide feedback; the operation of custody facilities in Dalkeith; violent incidents in Schools requiring Police attendance; support for those involved in providing intelligence information; the Community Action Team and arrangements for sharing the quarterly report with Community Councils; cyber security/crime; drug related deaths; support from night time economy staff in reporting incidents; and on a more practical note the presentation of figures along side percentages.

The Board also congratulated Officers on the very successful diversion work carried out around Bonfire night and Halloween with local youths in conjunction with the Fire & Rescue service and Bonnyrigg Rose, and expressed the hope that this type of engagement could be replicated elsewhere in Midlothian.

Decision

The Board noted the contents of the Report and agreed to the progression of the draft Local Police Plan 2023-26 to the Consultation Draft stage on the basis as outlined above.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Protectorate Services	Chief Officer Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
With reference to the Chair's comments as detailed in paragraph 4 of the minutes, Chief Officer Place, Derek Oliver address 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 3.

The Board, in considering the report, discussed the monitoring by H&S of violent incidents which occurred in the workplace and welcomed its inclusion on the agenda.

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 15 May 2023 at 11.00am

The meeting terminated at 12.23 pm.