

# Minute of Meeting



## Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
19 November 2018	11.00am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

### Present:

Councillor Curran (Chair)	Councillor McCall
Councillor Muirhead	Councillor Munro

### In attendance:

<b>Midlothian Council</b> Verona MacDonald, Democratic Services Team Leader	
<b>Police Scotland</b> Chief Superintendent Lesley Clark	Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson
<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</b> Stephen Gourlay, Area Manager	Dean Mack, Group Manager

### 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

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The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Parry and Smail.

### 2. Order of Business

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The Clerk advised that the order of business was as per the agenda circulated.

### 3. Declarations of interest

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No declarations of interest were intimated.

#### 4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 27 August 2018 was moved by Councillor Muirhead and seconded by Councillor McCall. The Chair was authorised to sign the Minute as a correct record of the meeting.

#### 5. Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1.1	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Midlothian Local Performance Report – Quarter 2, 1 July to 30 September 2018</b>	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</b>
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
<p>Stephen Gourlay by way of an update advised of a few matters worthy of noting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the Chief Fire Officer for Scotland was about to retire and a public announcement would be made shortly regarding his successor;</li> <li>(ii) the national pay negotiations were still ongoing but it was hoped there would be some news in the next couple of weeks;</li> <li>(iii) the training project at Newbridge was progressing well with the technical training building hoped to be open March/April next year;</li> <li>(iv) he passed on his appreciation to Police colleagues for their support over the bonfire period and noted that there were no known problems in Midlothian during this time.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair advised that all Councillors should have received an invite to the next meeting of the Fire Service Board being held on 13 December 2018 in Haddington.</p> <p>Dean Mack then provided the Board with a summary of the Quarter 2 report. He advised that it was a good report with 5 of the 6 outcomes being on target. He noted that the off target performance was in relation to unwanted fire alarm signals and this tended to be as a result of equipment failures. He further advised fire safety enforcement audits were just about on target and home fire safety visits were above target. He noted that the Service continued with their efforts to engage with youths and target high risk referrals from partner agencies.</p> <p>Councillor McCall, with regard to home fire safety visit referrals, noted that the majority came from the British Red Cross and wondered why there were not more from the Council. Mr Gourlay advised that the East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee had in September agreed that staff in social services and engineers carrying out other checks can make direct referrals to the Fire Service. Thereafter, the Chair advised he would raise an action with the Heads of Service for Property and Facilities Management and Customer and Housing Services to explore if there were any further opportunities for increased referral rates from both Council staff visiting tenants or contactors carrying out work on behalf of the Council within the housing stock.</p> <p>The Chair enquired whether the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) had</p>		

presented the Service with information sharing obstacles. Mr Gourlay advised that there would always be obstacles in this regard but he was unaware of any additional obstacles following the introduction of the legislation.

#### Decision

The Board noted the terms of the Quarter 2 report.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
<b>5.2.1</b>	<b>Police Scotland Midlothian Scrutiny Report April to September 2018</b>	<b>Police Scotland</b>

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

Chief Superintendent Clark by way of an update advised:-

- (i) of changes made by the new Chief Constable to his management team together with changes in the local team;
- (ii) how officers were working closely with the Council's Joint Director, Health and Social Care to ensure that the out of office hours provision had a positive impact on individuals with mental health issues whilst releasing officers to undertake other duties and;
- (iii) of the planned consultation with local authorities in the new year relating to automatic number plate recognition and advised she would report back in this regard in the new year.

She then handed over to Chief Inspector Simpson who spoke to the terms of the quarterly scrutiny report. He advised that, on the whole, the report was positive. He then went through some of the variances. He noted that domestic abuse incidents had increased by 20% but there was no obvious reason for the increase; that there had been a significant downturn in anti-social behaviour with a decrease of 11.7%; drug cases had increased by 33.3% and it was anticipated that the figure will continue to increase. However, he advised there had been a significant detection and recovery recently in the district; he noted that the figure for housebreaking also showed an increase and advised that unoccupied dwellings were broken into to source the keys of cars sitting in driveways and unoccupied new builds were also being targeted.

Members then went through some of the matters listed within the report relating to hate crimes, neighbour disputes and the use of quad bikes by Police officers to address off road motor biking incidents. Chief Inspector Simpson responded to the queries raised.

#### Decision

Thereafter, the Board noted the content of the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
<b>5.2.2</b>	<b>Community Action Team Report – July to September 2018</b>	<b>Police Scotland</b>

#### 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 July to September 2018. He advised that the report was an extremely positive one which demonstrated the significant impact the deployment of the Team was having within the community. He commented that seeing a Police presence deters criminal activity.

**Decision**

The Board noted the terms of the Report.

The meeting terminated at 11.42 am.