

# Minute of Meeting



## Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
21 August 2017	11.00am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

### Present:

Councillor Curran (Chair)	
Councillor McCall	Councillor Munro
Councillor Parry	Councillor Smail

### In attendance:

<b>Midlothian Council</b>  Kevin Anderson, Head of Customer and Housing Services	  Verona MacDonald, Democratic Services Team Leader
<b>Police Scotland</b>  Chief Superintendent Ivor Marshall	  Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson
<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</b>  David Farries, Area Manager	  Steve Gourlay, Group Manager

### 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

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The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Muirhead.

### 2. Order of Business

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The order of business was confirmed as outlined in the agenda circulated. It was noted that Police Scotland wished to raise an additional item and that it would be tabled after the scheduled business.

### 3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

### 4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 30 May 2017 was considered and approved noting one change on Page 4 thereof whereby the road discussed was the A6094 not the A6095. The Chair was authorised to sign the Minute as a correct record of the meeting.

### 5. Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Midlothian Local Performance Report – Quarter 1, 1 April to 30 June 2017</b>	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</b>
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
<p>David Farries, introduced the report and advised that the Service had now embarked on a formal transformation which would look at community planning as the catalyst for formatting the service to be provided. He made reference to a letter sent to all Chairs of local Scrutiny Boards by the Chair of the national Board which emphasised that the transformation was not entirely financial driven as it aimed to focus on the needs of communities. He advised that he felt the local service had perhaps gone as far as they could in terms of prevention of fires as borne out by the statistical information within the report but that other areas of concern would continue to be addressed. He welcomed Members thoughts on the letter from the Chair of the national Board and advised that it would be his intention to go through some of the presentation material in relation to the transformation process and that this could be done at the next meeting or perhaps at a separate meeting.</p> <p>Thereafter, the Chair confirmed he had received the letter and would circulate it to Members. Following discussion, Members agreed that they would like a separate meeting with all Elected Members being invited and that this could be done either by way of a Briefing Session or a request to Council for a Seminar. The Chair indicated that he would look into this and report back to Members after the meeting.</p> <p>Steve Gourlay then took Members through a summary of the Quarter 1 report noting the performances within the 5 objectives making up the main focus for local service delivery in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Midlothian 2014-2017, namely, (1) Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires; (2) Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities; (3) Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting; (4) Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions; (5) Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals together with the Fire Safety Enforcement Audits and Home Fire Safety Visits delivered in Midlothian.</p> <p>He made reference to the increase in deliberate fire-raising over the Easter period which was higher than the East and Scottish averages which had led to the local service questioning whether the work being done to tackle this is with the right people. He advised that this area of work would be developed with partner agencies with a view to broadening the scope of the young people being targeted. He addressed work already being done, in particular by the new Fire Station Commander in Dalkeith, in schools in preparation for the bonfire and fireworks</p>		

season.

Questions were then put by Councillors Parry, Smail, Munro and the Chair and subsequently answered by Mr Gourlay.

In relation to the sale of fireworks, Kevin Anderson, advised that only 2 outlets were now authorised by the Council and that in November, 2016 Council agreed to ban fireworks from being set off from Council non-domestic property and land except for organised/licensed displays. He further advised that, in conjunction with the Fire Service, free uplifts to remove pieces of wood and other flammable materials which could be used for bonfires, were planned.

#### Decision

The Board agreed to note:

- (a) the terms of the Quarter 1 report and;
- (b) that a presentation of the transformation work being undertaken within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would be held as soon as possible with an invitation extended to all Elected Members

Prior to the next item, the Chair advised that Chief Superintendent Marshall would shortly be taking up the position of President of the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents. On behalf of the Board, he congratulated Chief Superintendent Marshall on the appointment.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Police Scotland Midlothian Scrutiny Report Quarter 1 2017-18</b>	<b>Police Scotland</b>
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
<p>Ivor Marshall provided a summary of the content of the report and in particular emphasised the partnership working with agencies such as the Fire and Rescue Service. He advised that the transformation process undertaken was with a view to having local approaches to local policing and whereas balancing budgets was always a challenge this was on target. He noted that, despite some staff shortages, the quarter 1 statistics for Midlothian were strong. During the quarter the local force had provided support in Edinburgh during the festival period and produced positive figures regarding housebreakings and anti-social behaviour, which is a significant challenge in Midlothian. From his point of view, as the commanding officer, the area was performing to a very high level and delivering a good service to the community.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Simpson, spoke to the terms of the Report and highlighted performance in meeting the targets set for each of the priorities, namely Tackling Substance Misuse; Protecting People; Reducing Violence; Making our Roads Safer; Reducing Antisocial Behaviour; Tackling Serious and Organised Crime; and Reducing Housebreaking.</p> <p>He referred to Page 31 of the document pack and advised the measures taken with regard to substance misuse showed a positive picture and after the last Board Meeting he received good feedback from Elected Members regarding the Best Bar None scheme. He was hopeful that by the end of the year more licensees will have signed up to it. With regard to Page 33 of the document pack, he noted that whilst the figure was off the target set, officers were now identifying the most vulnerable persons quicker and that whilst the figures on Pages 34 and 35 showed the domestic</p>		

abuse detection level to be lower, it was difficult for many reasons to get the evidence needed to take reports further. The figures on Page 36 – Reducing Violence – showed a decrease in serious and common assaults and this was as a result of a concerted effort by officers in this area. He reiterated the point made earlier by Chief Superintendent Marshall regarding anti-social behaviour and advised that this was the biggest challenge for his officers given the different issues involved. With regard to the figures for Serious Organised Crime (Pages 42 and 43) he advised that with support from other areas a short term campaign had taken place but this still needed to be looked at in the longer term. Net assets seized were considerably higher and this was a positive picture. With regard to housebreaking (Pages 44 and 45) he noted that the figures were positive but this was still high on the list of priorities as officers were very much aware of the impact this had on the people affected.

Questions were then put by Councillors Parry, Smail, McCall and the Chair and subsequently responded to relating to matters including housebreaking and shoplifting and the locations of the mobile camera units.

Thereafter, Chief Inspector Simpson, tabled a draft report style and circulated copies to Members. He advised that, provided the Local Policing Plan 2017-2020 is approved by Council on 29 August, this would become the new reporting format for future meetings.

#### Decision

The Board agreed to note:-

- (a) the content of the Report;
- (b) Police Scotland will circulate information relating to the locations of the speed cameras in Midlothian to Elected Members separately;
- (c) the proposed new reporting format for future meetings.

The meeting terminated at 12.45 pm.