

Police and Fire and Rescue Board and Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board

Report by Kevin Anderson, Head of Customer and Housing Services

1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks nominations and sets out the schedule of meetings for the Midlothian Police and Fire and Rescue Board and the Midlothian Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board.

2 Background

2.1 On 15 December 2015, Midlothian Council agreed to:

- Establish a “Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board” which will operate as the lead group for the Partnership for the revised remit.
- Establish a ‘Midlothian Police and Fire & Rescue Board’ to alter the remit and replace the statutory scrutiny requirements of the current Safer Communities and Shadow Reducing Reoffending Board.

Police and Fire and Rescue Board

2.2 The proposed amendment to the scheme of administration including the remit and terms of reference of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board are attached at Appendix 1. These terms reflect the statutory scrutiny requirements of the Safer Communities Board.

The proposed make-up of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board remains the same as the former Safer Communities Board , i.e.- 3 SNP/Coalition, 2 Labour and 1 Green.

The nominations of Councillors Adam Montgomery and Jim Muirhead (Labour) were agreed at the 15th December Council meeting.

Nominations are sought for the remaining positions on the Board.

Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board

2.3 The Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board sits within the Community Planning framework. The proposed Council membership on the Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board is 3 SNP/Coalition, 2 Labour and 1 Green.

The nominations of Councillors Margot Russell and Bryan Pottinger (Labour) were agreed at the 15th December Council meeting.

Nominations are sought for the remaining positions on the Board.

Schedule of meetings

- 2.4 It is proposed that both Boards meet 4 times a year, on the dates currently allocated for Safer Communities Board meetings:

23rd February 2016
 24th May 2016
 23rd August 2016
 15th November 2016

To enable the Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board to meet beforehand, it is proposed that the start time of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board is set at 11:00am, rather than the 10:30am start time allocated to the Safer Communities Board.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no resource issues arising from this report

3.2 Risk

There are no resource issues arising from this report

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☒ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The remit of the Board encompasses initiatives in respect of preventative measures.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

This report provides detail on the remit and governance of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board. Elected Members and the Community Safety Partners have been consulted on the information contained in this report.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

This report does not have any equalities implications

4 Recommendations

Council is invited to:

- a) Approve the remit and proposed meeting dates of the Police and Fire and Rescue Board and updated scheme of administration;
- b) Approve the proposed meeting dates of the Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board; and
- c) Make nominations for the remaining places on the Police, Fire and Rescue Board and the Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board.

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Background Papers:

Appendix 1- Midlothian Council Scheme of Administration

Midlothian Police and Fire & Rescue Board

Midlothian Council as a whole has an overall strategic role and legislative requirement in agreeing Midlothian Police and Fire and Rescue plans.

Business – The Board remit includes:

- 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.

Membership - The Board will comprise 6 Elected Members, Including the portfolio holder for Housing and Customer Services

Officers who will attend the meeting but not sit on the board will include:

- The Local Police Commander
- The local Senior Fire and Rescue Officer plus the Service Delivery Manager for Midlothian.
- A representative from the Council's Corporate Management Team, usually the Joint Director, Health & Social Care

These officers will attend meetings from an accountability view point; they will not be part of the Board

Other partners/ sectors will be approached should there be a lack of suitable representation from the above partners/sectors.

Board Governance

This Board will report to Midlothian Council and link in to the wider Midlothian Community Planning arrangements. This governance structure of the Board will comply with the requirements of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

Meetings

The Board will meet 4 times a year

Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the Board will be 3 Elected Members.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Board will be submitted to the next meeting of the Board for approval. They will also be submitted to the Council both for information and to allow the Council to consider any recommendations contained in them.