

Minute of Meeting



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
21 February 2017	11.05am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Parry (Chair)	Councillor Baxter
Councillor de Vink	Councillor Montgomery
Councillor Muirhead	Councillor Wallace

In attendance:

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

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

It was noted that no apologies had been received.

2. Order of Business

The order of business was confirmed as outlined in the agenda circulated.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of the Meeting held on 15 November 2016 was approved as a correct record.

5. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Midlothian Local Performance Plan – Quarter 3 2016-17	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>David Farries, by way of introduction, advised that Tam McGrath and Stephen Gourlay would present the Quarter 3 Report to the Board. He advised that the Service continued to work on the local plan and incorporating it into the Single Midlothian Plan albeit this was proving difficult taking into account the terms of the Community Empowerment legislation. He advised the budget allocation was now known and would result in further challenges for the Service. He welcomed the increase in capital budget which would in some way offset the decreases made in past financial years. He continued by advising that youth engagement activities had been added to the plan because they were considered to be worthwhile to counteract anti-social behaviour. He mentioned the countrywide standardising of duty patterns and advised that this would not lead to any decrease of service in Midlothian.</p> <p>Thereafter, Tam McGrath and Stephan Gourlay spoke to the terms of the Quarter 3 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>It was noted that during the quarter there had been no fatalities from accidental dwelling fires. Attention was also drawn to the work undertaken within schools to tackle unwanted fire alarm signals and the desire to expand youth engagement and; the difficulties faced by the Service in finding and/or targeting the most at risk people in the community.</p>		

Following a question by Councillor de Vink seeking a view on the use of chinese (sky) lanterns, Stephen Gourlay advised that whereas the Service nationally did not have an official stated view, clearly something which goes up in the air and is on fire is a hazard and locally the Service would be supportive of any initiatives to prevent the hazard. The Chair advised she would be happy to intimate the terms of a Motion passed by Midlothian Council on 8 November 2016 to the Fire and Rescue Service and to the Police.

Thereafter, questions were put by Councillors Montgomery, de Vink and Muirhead and subsequently answered by Mr McGrath and Mr Gourlay. It was further agreed that the statistical information omitted from the report relating to the East and West Midlothian Wards would be provided to the Council's Democratic Services Team for electronic distribution to Board Members.

Decision

The Board agreed:-

- (a) to note the terms of the Quarter 3 report;
- (b) that the Chair intimate the terms of the Council Motion of 8 November 2016 relating to Chinese (sky) lanterns to the Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland and;
- (c) that the statistical information omitted from the report relating to the East and West Midlothian Wards be provided by the Fire and Rescue Service and distributed electronically to Board Members as soon as possible.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Police Scotland Midlothian Scrutiny Report Quarter 3 2016-17	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Ivor Marshall introduced the Report providing a divisional overview of some of the current issues affecting Police Scotland. He advised that the National Service Report would be released very shortly and informed Members that Police spend only 20% dealing with crime with the other 80% dealing with vulnerable people/a social service. He expressed the Chief Constable's desire to build a sustainable operating model with a continued emphasis on localism which sits at the heart of what the Police service does. He stated that the Service work closely with the Fire and Rescue Service and the local authority to embed local policing plans within local outcome plans. He advised that the figures continued to show an increase in violence across the division and that this trend had been noticed in other parts of the country also, with one of the reasons for the increase being the manner in which matters were recorded. He acknowledged the figures for housebreaking and confirmed that support for tackling this had now been requested from other areas in the country where specialist knowledge and experience existed. Lastly he took the opportunity to extend an invitation to Members to visit the Police Contact Centre at Bilston and being the last meeting of the Board prior to local government elections, formally recorded his thanks to Members for their consideration since its inception.</p> <p>Kenny Simpson then 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;</p>		

Reducing Antisocial Behaviour; Tackling Serious and Organised Crime; and Reducing Housebreaking. He advised that so far the reporting year had been challenging; that officers had spent considerable time trying to engage with groups of youths whilst failing to get much by way of positive responses from parents/carers; that whilst the figures under tackling serious and organised crime were off target, there had been a couple of successful enforcement days recently with substantial Class A drugs and firearm recoveries. He advised it was important to the community who provide information to be assured that the information was being acted upon. In relation to housebreaking he advised that it was a complex picture and recognised nationally that there was an element of travelling criminals operating in the east of the country. Considerable Police resources had been expended on it but indicators still showed that people are somewhat lax about security.

Questions were then put by Members and subsequently responded to relating to matters including the number of police officers in the area; the age and gender profile of persons committing crimes; the locations of and information available in the public domain about the mobile safety camera van; when the local plan would be adopted and; targeted housebreakings to steal motor vehicles.

Decision

The Board agreed:-

- (a) to note the content of the Report and;
- (b) that current Board Members together with new Members of the Board elected after local government elections in May, should they so wish, visit the Contact Centre at Bilston at a suitable time after May 2017.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Community Policing Team Midlothian Activity Summary October, November, December 2016	Police Scotland
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Kenny Simpson spoke to the terms of the Report which summarised the activities of the Community Policing Team during the quarter of October to December 2016.</p> <p>Thereafter, in response to questions raised by Councillors Montgomery and Wallace, Ivor Marshall advised that the division can bid for additional resources and obtain these if the need and demand is considered to be greater than other bids. He confirmed that having officers locally and available is definitely the best preventative approach for the area and when the Council paid for these resources this is what they received.</p>		
Decision		
The Board noted the terms of the Report.		

The Chair expressed her thank you to Members for serving on the Board.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Board would be held on 30 May 2017 at 10.00 am with the first part of the meeting dedicated to training for Members.

The meeting terminated at 1.10 pm.