

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee

Thursday, 18 February 2021

Remote Locations via Video-Conference

PRESENT

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor James Allan, Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor Gordon Cowie, Councillor Paula Coy, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Ray McLean

APOLOGIES

Councillor Louise Nicol

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Superintendent G MacDonald, Divisional Police Commander, Chief Inspector N Stevenson and Chief Inspector M Whitford, all from Police Scotland; Mr M Tait, Local Senior Officer and Mr B Milne, Group Commander, both from Scottish Fire and Rescue Services; Head of Economic Growth and Development and Mrs L Rowan, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Committee.

1 Chair

Councillor Coy, being Chair of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee, chaired the meeting.

2 Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, there were no declarations from Group Leaders or Spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how Members will vote on any item on the agenda or any declarations of Member's interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

3 Resolution

The meeting resolved that in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business appearing at the relevant paragraphs of this minute as specified below, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the appropriate paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Paragraph No. of Minute

10

Paragraph No. of Schedule 7A

14

4 Minute of Meeting dated 19 November 2020

The Minute of the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee dated 20 February 2020 was submitted and approved.

5 Written Questions

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2021

Under reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee dated 19 November 2020, a report by LSO Martin Tait, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS), Aberdeenshire and Moray presented the Committee with the Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2021 for approval.

During discussion, surrounding the Firesetters, Fireskills and Youth Volunteer Scheme, it was noted that the Committee were not fully aware of the work of the SFRS in this area and it was queried whether a report could be brought to a future meeting of this Committee in this regard.

In response, LSO Tait agreed to provide a thematic report on the SFRS Firesetters, Fireskills and Youth Volunteer Scheme to a future meeting of this Committee.

During further discussion, it was noted that the new Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2021 did not include any performance indicators in relation to manpower and it was queried whether manpower was adequate for the SFRS in Moray, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response, LSO Tait advised that there has been no significant impact in manpower due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that Moray currently has a healthy workforce establishment however agreed to provide up to date manpower figures to the Committee following the meeting.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- i. to approve the Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2021 and the priorities contained within;
- ii. that a thematic report on the SFRS Firesetters, Fireskills and Youth Volunteer Scheme be brought to a future meeting of this Committee; and
- iii. that up to date manpower figures be provided to the Committee following the meeting.

7 Thematic Report - Contact Assessment Model (CAM)

A report by Chief Superintendent George MacDonald, Divisional Police Commander, North East Division, Police Scotland informed the Committee about the Contact Assessment Model (CAM).

The Chair stated that the Committee had been encouraged to view a short video which provided an overview of CAM ahead of the Committee which had been very informative and welcomed Chief Inspector Mike Whitford to the meeting who in turn provided an informative update on how CAM is currently operating.

CAM is a new way of managing all 101 and 999 calls to the Police and is built on 3 elements; Risk Assessments, Resolution Teams and Local Police Appointments. CAM enables Police Scotland to provide a service much more consistently focused on threat, risk and harm whilst giving the public greater choice on how it accesses its services. It also enables on-duty Officers to focus more on immediate need at the time, through effective management of less urgent calls and incidents. Furthermore, it provides more opportunity to work with partners to ensure callers get the service they need at the first point of contact.

The Committee welcomed the report and joined the Chair in thanking Chief Inspector Whitford for his informative update on CAM and thereafter agreed to note the information provided in the report in relation to CAM.

8 Police Performance

Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee dated 19 November 2020, a report by Chief Superintendent George MacDonald, Divisional Police Commander, North East Division, Police Scotland informed the Committee of the performance of Police in respect of the Local Policing Plan 2020-23 and other key indicators.

During his introduction, Chief Superintendent MacDonald advised that there has been a consistent demand for the Police service during the COVID-19 pandemic with the people of Moray showing excellent compliance with the restrictions. There has been a general decrease in violent crime which could be associated with the temporary closure of public houses and nightclubs. There has also been a decrease in acquisitive crime and road traffic collisions, thought to be due to there being less traffic on the road. There has however been an increase in speeding traffic which may also be due to there being less traffic on the road which in turn provides an opportunity for speeding. Fraud continues to have increased due to the increased use of online platforms and Chief Superintendent MacDonald urged the public to be vigilant when using online platforms and not to provide passwords or pin numbers if asked.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note:

- i. performance outlined in the reports; and
- ii. that the Local Commander will continue to report to the Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives as articulated in the 2020-23 Local Policing Plan.

9 Question Time

There were no questions raised.

10 Police Scotland Operational Update [Para 14]

The Committee was provided with an informative operational update by Chief Inspector Norman Stevenson, North East Division, Police Scotland.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the informative operational update from the North East Division, Police Scotland.