

# MORAY COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 04 May 2023

Council Chambers, Council Office, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX

### **PRESENT**

Councillor James Allan, Councillor Peter Bloomfield, Councillor Tracy Colyer, Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Jérémie Fernandes, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Neil McLennan, Councillor Shona Morrison

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor Marc Macrae

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Chief Superintendent Graeme Mackie, Chief Inspector Simon Reid, Detective Chief Inspector Caroline Gray, all Police Scotland, Mr Chay Ewing, Area Commander, Local Senior Officer and Mr David Hendry, Group Commander, both Fire and Rescue Services Scotland, Mr Andy Stewart, Principal Environmental Health Officer, and Mrs Lissa Rowan, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Committee, both Moray Council.

### **1 Chair**

Councillor Bloomfield, 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 21 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 the 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	Paragraph No. of Schedule 7A
10	14 Information relating to any action taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

#### **4 Minute of Meeting dated 9 February 2023**

The Minute of the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee dated 9 February 2023 was submitted and approved.

#### **5 Written Questions**

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

#### **6 Order of Business**

The Chair sought the agreement of the Committee to vary the order of business and take Item 7 Moray Local Policing Plan 2023-26 as the first substantive item of business, to allow officers from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to connect to the meeting. This was agreed.

#### **7 Moray Local Policing Plan 2023-26**

A report by Chief Superintendent Mackie, North East Division, Police Scotland presented to Committee the Moray Local Policing Plan for 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2026 for retrospective approval.

During his introduction, Chief Superintendent Mackie explained that retrospective approval was being sought for the Moray Local Policing Plan 23-26 as there was no meeting scheduled at a suitable date to approve the plan before 1 April 2023, therefore, after consultation with the Chair, it was agreed that retrospective approval be sought at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee instead of arranging a special meeting. This was noted.

The Committee joined the Chair in commending Officers in Police Scotland for the service they provide and thereafter agreed to approve the Moray Local Policing Plan for 2023-26 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

#### **8 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Moray Thematic Report 2023**

A report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS) informed the Committee of the SFRS Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV's) in Moray.

During discussion of the report, it was noted that the SFRS carry out home safety visits for residential properties however it was queried whether safety visits extend to commercial properties and whether the Service had up to date plans for all commercial premises in Moray.

In response, LSO Ewing advised that safety visits for commercial properties were carried out by Officers as part of Operational Intelligence Visits and that plans for most higher risk businesses are held however offered to bring a further thematic report on fire safety visits for commercial properties to a future meeting of the Committee. This was agreed.

The Committee joined the Chair in commending the Fire and Rescue Service for the service they provide and thereafter agreed:

- (i) to note the contents of the thematic report; and
- (ii) that a thematic report on fire safety visits for commercial properties be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

## **9 Question Time**

Councillor Gatt raised concern around battery storage units in Keith and sought assurance that the Fire Service were prepared should any fire occur in or around the units.

In response, Local Senior Officer Ewing advised that the Service are aware of the battery storage sites and units in Keith and advice and training has been provided to officers.

Group Commander Hendry further advised that Operational Crews had attended and carried out familiarisation visits at the battery storage units at Keith and that specific training is included in all of the monthly training packages for all crews, including retained fire fighters.

Councillor Fernandes noted that a recent Office for National Statistics Report stated that there was an increase of 22% in shop lifting crime related to the cost of living crisis and queried whether this was the case in Moray.

In response, Chief Inspector Reid advised that there had been an increase in theft by shop lifting figures in Moray however there was nothing that could attribute this to the cost of living crisis in relation to the type of items stolen.

## **10 Verbal Operational Update [Para 14]**

Chief Superintendent Graeme Mackie and Chief Inspector Simon Reid provided a confidential update in relation to operational matters within Police Scotland.