

MORAY COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 16 November 2023

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

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Superintendent Graham Mackie; Chief Inspector Simon Reid; Chief Inspector Darren Bruce; Detective Chief Inspector Caroline Gray, all Police Scotland, David Hendry, Group Commander; Andrew Wright, Area Commander and Local Senior Officer, both Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, Dr Emma Plant, Equally Safe Development Coordinator Moray; and Lindsey Robinson, Committee Services Officer.

1. Chair

Councillor Bloomfield, as 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 Orders 21 and 23 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. Minutes of meeting of 17 August 2023

The minute of the meeting held 17 August 2023 was submitted and approved.

4. Written Questions **

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

5. Welcome

The Committee joined the Chair in welcoming Local Senior Officer, Area Commander Andrew Wright to his first meeting.

6. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Moray Thematic Report November 2023

The meeting had before it a report by the Local Senior Officer, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray informing the committee of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS) On-Call availability and recruitment in Moray.

During consideration the Local Senior Officer and the Group Commander advised the Committee of the different approaches being taken to look at recruitment, including contracted hours and job share.

The Committee joined the Chair in thanking the SFRS for all of their hard work over bonfire night and in the run up to Christmas.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the contents of the thematic report.

7. Police Performance

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Superintendent, Divisional Police Commander, North East Division, Police Scotland informing the Committee of the performance of Police in respect of the Local Policing Plan 2023-26 and other key indicators.

During consideration the Chief Superintendent advised the Committee that going forward case studies will be provided alongside the statistics and the performance reports will be 6 monthly.

The Committee joined the Chair in thanking the police for all of their hard work.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i. note performance outlined in the reports; and
- ii. note that the Local Commander will continue to report to the Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives as articulated in the 2023-26 Local Policing Plan.

8. Thematic Report - Mental Health in the Community - Impact on Policing

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Inspector, North East Division, Police Scotland informing the Committee on mental health challenges in the community and the impact on policing.

During consideration Councillor Morrison sought clarification on what discussions were being held at Community Planning partnership (CPP) level.

In response the Chief Inspector advised that he would be happy to take this to the CPP and the Chief Superintendent advised that this report was a conversation starter and any feedback was welcome.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the information contained within the report.

9. Thematic Report - Violence Against Women and Girls

The meeting had before it a report by the Detective Chief Inspector, North East Division, Police Scotland and the Equally Safe Development Co-ordinator (ESDC) informing the Committee on the work of the Moray Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership (MVAWGP).

The Equally Safe Co-ordinator Moray gave a presentation on the work of the MVAWGP, and then invited question from the Committee.

During consideration Councillor Coull sought clarification as to whether the SFRS were also given this training.

In response the ESDC advised that it had been looked at in the past and a number of staff had been volunteered for it.

The Local Senior Officer advised that 16 days of Action was already in place and that he would be happy to take on anything that could be shared amongst staff.

Councillor McLennan sought clarification as to whether there had been engagement with the British transport Police.

In response the Detective Chief Inspector advised that they have their own strategies but they do work together.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the information contained within the report.

10. Question Time ***

Under reference to paragraph 7 of the minute of the meeting held 17 August 2023, Councillor McLennan sought clarification as to whether the Chair had sent the letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and if a response had been received.

In response the Chair advised that the letter had been sent and the response had been uploaded to CMIS.

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the minute of the meeting held 17 August 2023, Councillor McLennan called for the Committee to get behind the call for retained firefighters and special constables.

The Chair advised that he would contact HR to advise that there are vacant posts and look at the possibility of them being advertised on the Council website.

The Group Commander thanked Councillors McLennan, Stuart and Warren for their support in Buckie and advised that all members could contact their local fire station to see what is being done in terms of recruitment and how Councillors can support this.

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the minute of the meeting held 17 August 2023, Councillor McLennan sought assurance from the Chair that the Committee would fully back the work of those who ensure a peaceful society free from hate crime and where these actions are challenged.

In response the Chair confirmed the Committee's backing for this.