

MORAY COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 19 August 2021

Various 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 Louise Nicol

APOLOGIES

Councillor Ray McLean

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance at the above meeting were Chief Superintendent MacDonald, Superintendent Wright, Chief Inspector Stevenson, Detective Chief Inspector Buchan, Police Scotland, Bruce Farquharson, Area Commander, Local Senior Officer and Bruce Milne, Temporary Group Commander both Fire and Rescue Services Scotland, the Head of Governance Strategy and Performance, Andy Stewart, Principal Environmental Health Officer and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer all Moray Council.

1. Chair

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Paula Coy.

2. Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests *

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillor's 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 Number of the Minute	Paragraph Number of Schedule 7A
	14
	Information relating to any action taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of a crime.

4. Minute of Meeting dated 20 May 2021

The minute of the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee dated 20 May 2021 was submitted and approved.

5. Written Questions **

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6. Thematic Report - Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

A report by the Local Senior Officer, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray informed the Committee of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal public consultation and options contained within.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the contents of the thematic report; and
- ii) respond to the public consultation.

7. Police Performance

A report by the Chief Superintendent informed the Committee of the performance of Police in respect of the Local Policing Plan 2020-23 and other key indicators.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note:

- i) the 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.

8. Thematic Report - Fraud

A report by the Chief Superintendent, Divisional Police Commander advised members regarding the current threat presented in respect of Fraud, particularly non-contact and cyber-enabled to those most vulnerable within the community.

Following consideration the Committee noted the information provided in the report in relation to Cyber-enabled Fraud/Non-Contact Fraud type crimes and offences.

9. Thematic Report - Taser Provision

A report by the Chief Superintendent, Divisional Police Commander informed the Committee about the proposed uplift in Taser provision in Scotland.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the information provided in this report in relation to taser provision.

10. Thematic Report - Staycations

A report by the Chief Superintendent, Divisional Police Commander informed the Committee about the collaborative work to address the emerging theme of the Staycation effect in Moray.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the information provided in this report in relation to Staycations.

11. Question Time ***

Councillor Gatt said that the Police and Fire and Rescue Services cCommittee has a statutory basis from a major nationalisation of those services in 2012. This Committee is a good example of how elected members can work through moray council with key partners for the benefit of all of moray.

Councillor Gatt further added that he would like to ask the Chair and the Committee their thoughts on extending an invitation to the local Scottish Ambulance Service as well so we can establish a stronger link between Elected Members and this vital service.

Over the last few months we have seen an increase in constituents contacting Elected Members in regard to the Scottish Ambulance Service, the Conservative Group believe extending an invitation to the Ambulance Service would bring real benefits.

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 allows external members to be invited onto committees and coincidentally the scheme of admin which would need to be changed to allow this is coming to a meeting of Moray Council on the 15 September 2021.

Councillor Gatt asked the Chair if she would agree to work with Officers to write to the Scottish Ambulance Service, asking them if they would be willing to join the Committee so the Committee can learn more about the local service and establish a stronger working relationship and if they agree, bring a report to Council to allow the change.

In response, the Chair said that until she had obtained advice from the Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance she would be unable to commit writing an invitation but would reply to Councillor Gatt formally following the meeting.

12. Police Scotland Operational Update [Para 14]

The Committee noted that there was no operation update provided.