

MORAY COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 17 February 2022

Various Locations via Video-Conference

PRESENT

Councillor James Allan, Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor Gordon Cowie, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Louise Nicol, Councillor Derek Ross

APOLOGIES

Councillor Ray McLean

IN ATTENDANCE

Superintendent Neil McDonald, Chief Inspector Simon Reid, both Police Scotland, Mr Chay Ewing, Area Commander, Local Senior Officer and Mr Andy Buchan, Group Commander both Fire and Rescue Services Scotland, Head of Economic Growth and Development and Mrs Lissa Rowan, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Committee, both Moray Council.

1 Chair

Councillor Coull, 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 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 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
9.	14 – Information relating to any action taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

4 Minute of Meeting dated 18 November 2021

The Minute of the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee was submitted and approved.

5 Written Questions

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Moray Thematic Report February 2022

Councillor Allan joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

A report by the Local Senior Officer, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray informed the Committee of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Retained and Volunteer Duty System (RVDS) crewing configuration and recruitment process.

The report highlighted the work underway to improve how the SFRS deliver their Retained Volunteer Duty System and Recruitment programmes.

The Chair sought assurance from LSO Ewing that the Committee would be kept up to date with regard to SFRS recruitment challenges in Moray.

In response, LSO Ewing agreed to this request.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the contents of the Thematic Report set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) that the Committee will be kept up to date with regard to SFRS recruitment challenges in Moray.

7 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 the 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 discussion surrounding vandalism and anti-social behaviour, it was queried whether there had been an increase in these crimes.

In response, Superintendent McDonald advised that there did not appear to be an increase in vandalism and antisocial behaviour when considered against the 5 year average.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note:

- (i) Performance outlined in the report;
- (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 Question Time

Councillor Morrison left the meeting at this juncture.

The Committee joined the Chair in welcoming Chief Inspector Simon Reid to his new role with Police Scotland.

Under reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee dated 18 November 2021, in relation to illegal parking within Elgin Town Centre, Councillor Divers stated that, whilst he supports and recognises the efforts that the Police are making to address this issue, this remains a significant problem and that illegal parking in Batchen Street is particularly dangerous.

In response, Superintendent McDonald advised that he is aware of the parking issues in Elgin and that Chief Inspector Reid will continue to focus on this issue and consider a preventative approach.

9 Police Scotland Operational Update [Para 14]

Superintendent McDonald and Chief Inspector Reid answered questions raised in relation to operational matters within Police Scotland.