

MORAY COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 18 November 2021

Various Locations via Video-Conference

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Councillor Ray McLean

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance at the above meeting were Chief Superintendent MacDonald, Chief Inspector Stevenson, both Police Scotland, Bruce Farquharson, Area Commander, Local Senior Officer and Bruce Milne, Temporary Group Commander both Fire and Rescue Services Scotland, and Lindsey Robinson, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Committee, Moray Council.

1. Chair

Councillor Coy, 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 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 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 of 19 August 2021

The minute of the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee dated 19 August 2021 was submitted and approved subject to the issues raised by Councillor Divers on illegal parking in Elgin being included in the minute.

5. Written Questions **

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6. SFRS Performance Report 1 April to 30 September 2021

A report by the Local Senior Officer, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray informed the Committee of the performance undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS) locally and in respect of the Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2021-24.

During consideration, the Local Senior Officer advised that the results of the large scale consultation on unwanted fire alarms showed a clear favoured response. More information on this will be brought to the next meeting.

The Local Senior Officer advised the Committee that both he and the temporary Group Commander had been successful for promotion and that this would be their last meeting. A robust handover process will take place and the replacements will be introduced to the Committee prior to the next meeting.

Following further consideration, where the Local Senior Officer answered questions on anti social behaviour towards the fire service and best practice with regards to the work completed recently at Roseisle forest and beach, the Committee agreed to note the performance outlined in the report applicable to annual performance for 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

The Committee joined the Chair in congratulating Mr Farquharson and Mr Milne on being successful in their promotions and thanked them both for their service to the Committee.

7. Thematic Report - Moray Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership

A report by Detective Chief Inspector Howieson, Police Scotland, Chair - Moray Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership (MVAWGP), informed the Committee on the progress of the MVAWGP.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the information contained within the report and Appendix 1.

8. Question Time ***

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the Meeting of this Committee dated 19 August 2021, Councillor Coull sought an update on taser provision.

In response, Chief Superintendent MacDonald advised that there were a limited number of Officers who were taser trained but additional funding has been received

to allow this to roll out further. Elgin will be one of the focus areas and the full roll out will take 12-18 months.

Councillor Nicol sought clarification on information from COSLA on body worn video cameras and whether the subject would be raised at the scrutiny committee.

In response, Chief Superintendent MacDonald confirmed that body worn cameras had been used for 10 years in the North East. The report from COSLA is to allow the rest of the country to catch up. Currently it is being rolled out to armed officers and the experience from the North East will be used to model the roll out.

Councillor Coull raised concerns about cars parking in the narrow streets in Keith and the ability of the fire appliance to get through.

In response, the temporary Group Commander advised that the fire appliances will always get through. If there is any inconsiderate parking the Fire Service have a good relationship with Police Scotland and it will be resolved.

Councillor Divers sought clarification on the illegal parking within Elgin town centre. he was of the opinion that nothing is being done about it, although he has seen the Police out and about. it is being reported to him through the Community Councils and Elgin BID that when on street parking is reported to 101 they are being told it is a Council issue and not a Police issue.

In response Chief Superintendent McDonald advised that it is an issue for both the Council and the Police and Chief Inspector Stevenson has allocated resources to the issue.

Chief Inspector Stevenson advised that prevention is the best solution. Elgin BID have produced posters for display in the shop windows for education purposes. He further advised that the contact centre issue would be looked into to ensure that the correct information is given out with regard to Moray and the pedestrian areas in Elgin.

Councillor Cowie sought feedback on the allegations involving Forres Police Station.

In response, Chief Superintendent MacDonald advised that he could not make any comments as there were ongoing live legal proceedings.

Councillor Coull sought clarification on whether or not the Fire service had any recommendations for interlinked fire alarms, with the new policy coming into force in February 2022.

In response, the temporary Group Commander advised that SFRS do not give recommendations as it is a Scottish Government policy. The SFRS website and the QR code on display at all fire stations gives information on the different types but it is the homeowners preference.

9. Police Scotland Operational Update [Para 14]

Chief Superintendent MacDonald, Police Scotland provided the Committee with a verbal operational update.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the operational update.

