

MORAY COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 17 August 2023

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

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Councillor James Allan, Councillor Shona Morrison

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Superintendent Graham Mackie, Chief Inspector Simon Reid, Detective Inspector Norman Stevenson, Police Scotland, David Hendry, Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, Andy Stewart, Principal Environmental Health Officer and the Democratic Services Manager.

1. Chair

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Bloomfield.

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. Tribute

The Committee joined the Chair in paying tribute to the Area Commander, Local Senior Officer Chay Ewing who had retired from Scottish Fire and Rescue Services after 23 years service and wished Mr Ewing a long and happy retirement.

4. Minute of Meeting of 4 May 2023

The minute of the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee dated 4 May 2023 was submitted and approved.

5. Written Questions **

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6. Scottish Fire and Rescue Services Performance Report - April - July 2023

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 locally and in respect of the Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2021-24.

Councillor McLennan raised concerns about the increasing statistics on road traffic collisions and sought a report to a future meeting on the work being done across the agencies to reduce the figures.

In response, the Group Commander advised that a Thematic Report on road traffic collisions could be brought to a future meeting of the Committee. He further added that following on from concerns regarding battery storage at Keith, a thematic report would also be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

Councillor McBain sought clarification on whether there are issues with recruitment in the area.

In response, the Group Commander confirmed that the Service is constantly recruiting for on-call staff and stated that there are a couple of stations in the area where there are issues. He further added that he would be happy to bring a Thematic Report on Recruitment to a future meeting of the Committee.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- i) to note performance outlined in the report applicable to annual performance for 1 April to 31 July 2023;
- ii) a thematic report on the increase in numbers of RTC and the work being done to decrease the number be brought to a future meeting;
- iii) a thematic report on battery storage units be brought to a future meeting of Committee; and
- iv) a thematic report on recruitment within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services be brought to a future meeting.

7. Police Scotland - Moray Performance Report April 2022 - March 2023

A report by the Chief Superintendent, Divisional Police Commander, North East Division, Police Scotland informed the Committee of the performance of Police in respect of the Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 and other key indicators. This is the final report pertaining to the 2020-23 Local Policing Plan, the 2023-26 Plan having commenced on 1 April 2023.

During consideration of the report, concern was raised regarding the cuts to Police Scotland budget which resulted in the reduction of 39 Officers in the North East. Councillor McLennan requested that the Chair write to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice of Scotland raising concerns about the cut backs to funding for Police Scotland.

In response, Councillor Bloomfield agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice of Scotland raising concerns about the cut backs to funding for Police Scotland.

Following further consideration the Committee agreed:

- i) to note the performance outlined in the report;
- ii) to note 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; and
- iii) the Chair will write to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice of Scotland raising concerns about the cut backs to funding for Police Scotland.

8. Thematic Report - Cybercrime

A report by Detective Inspector, Specialist Crime Division, Police Scotland informed the Committee on Cybercrime.

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

9. Question Time ***

The Committee joined Councillor McLennan in congratulating Councillor Bloomfield on his work to help the Council achieve the Armed Forces Covenant Gold Award.

Councillor McLennan sought agreement from the Committee and all Councillors of the Council to put their weight behind the words of outgoing Chief Constable Iain Livingstone and to work to reduce inequitable acts.

In response Councillor Bloomfield agreed to endorse the outgoing Chief Constable's words regarding inequitable acts.