

MORAY COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 08 February 2024

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 Graeme Mackie; Chief Inspector Mike Mckenzie, both Police Scotland; Andrew Wright, Local Area Commander and Local Senior Officer; David Hendry, Group Commander, both Scottish Fire and Rescue Services; Head of Economic Growth and Development; and Lindsey Robinson, Committee Services Officer, both Moray Council.

1. Chair

Councillor Bloomfield, as Chair of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee, chaired the meeting.

2. Tribute

The Committee joined the Chair in paying tribute to the emergency services in Moray who have dealt with two extremely traumatic incidents over the last few months, namely the deaths of Kiesha Donaghy in New Elgin in November and Keith Rollinson at Elgin Bus Station last weekend.

The Chair reiterated the Police Scotland assurances that Moray is a safe place to live and that he has been heartened by the response locally since these tragic deaths took place.

The Chair thanked the emergency services for conducting their response and investigations professionally and with respect to our communities, adding that it was a stark reminder of the difficult job they do every day.

3. 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.

4. Minute of the meeting held 16 November 2023

The minute of the meeting held 16 November 2023 was submitted and approved.

5. Written Questions **

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Moray Performance Report 1 April 2023 - 1 January 2024

The meeting had before it a report by the Local Senior Officer, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray informing the Committee of the performance undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service locally and in respect of the Moray Local Fire and rescue Plan 2021-24.

During consideration the Group Commander took members through the report and highlighted the performance in the 6 priority areas.

Councillor McLennan sought clarification on the timescale for a report on road traffic collisions.

In response the Group commander advised that the report had been delayed due to a change of Local Senior Officer with the Fire Service and a change of Police Chief Inspector but that the report would be available for the next meeting.

Following consideration the Committee unanimously agreed to note performance outlined in the report applicable to annual performance for 1 April 2023 to 1 January 2024.

7. Local Fire and Rescue Plan Review 2023

The meeting had before it a report by the Local Senior Officer, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray informing the Committee of the review undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in respect of the Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2021-24.

During consideration the Local Senior Officer advised that the only update to the plan was a change to the wording of Local Priority 6: Emergency Response and Community Resilience to Operational Preparedness and Community Resilience.

Councillor Coull sought clarification on the VR headsets and how groups can use these.

In response the Local Senior Officer advised that the headsets are used at engagement events with local youth and community groups. They can request a visit and there will be a presentation alongside the use of the headsets.

Councillor Gatt sought clarification as to whether there was capacity for home safety visits to go back to pre-pandemic levels.

In response the local Senior Officer advised that measures were in place to allow for this.

Following consideration the Committee unanimously agreed to note the review outlined in the report applicable to the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Moray 2021-2024 including the revised wording.

8. 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.

The Chief Superintendent introduced Chief Inspector Mike McKenzie to the Committee and thanked Chief Inspector Simon Reid for his support.

During consideration the Chief Superintendent took the Committee through the Local Policing Policies.

Councillor Coull sought clarification on modern slavery and human trafficking in the construction industry and whether it was a problem in Moray.

In response the Chief Superintendent advised that there had been instances in Moray, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire so it does happen here and not just in the bigger cities.

Councillor Divers sought clarification as to whether bus passes would be withdrawn for those found to be abusing the system.

In response the Chief Superintendent advised that it was not productive to link the free bus travel to anti-social behaviour as the majority of people using the bus passes are benefiting from it.

Following consideration the Committee unanimously agreed to:

- i. note performance outlined in the reports;
- 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; and
- iii. a report on Road Safety being brought to a future committee.

9. Question Time ***

The Committee noted that no further questions were asked.