



**NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF  
POLICE, FIRE and COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2017  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

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**Committee Members Present:**

Councillor T Day (Convener)  
Councillor J Gillies  
Councillor J Goodfellow  
Councillor P MacKenzie  
Councillor M Libberton  
Councillor K McLeod  
Councillor F McAllister  
Councillor J Caldwell

**Police Scotland**

Chief Supt I Marshall  
Chief Insp M Paden

**East and Midlothian Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Mr D Farries, Area Manager  
Mr S Gourlay, Group Manager - Protection and Prevention  
Mr T McGrath, Group Manager - Community Safety

**Council Officials Present:**

Ms M Patterson, Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services)  
Mr T Shearer, Head of Communities and Partnerships  
Mr P Vestri, Service Manager - Corporate Policy and Improvement  
Mr K Black, Safer Communities Team Leader

**Clerk:**

Mrs F Stewart

**Apologies:**

Councillor J McNeil

**Declarations of Interest:**

None

The Chair welcomed everyone present to the last meeting of the Committee before the Local Elections in May 2017.

The Chair, who was not seeking re-election as a Councillor, thanked Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) for their support and commitment at a time when both services were undergoing significant change at national level. He also thanked Mr Kenny Black, Safer Communities Team Leader, and Members of the Committee.

The Chair asked if the Police report could be taken before the SFRS report and this was agreed.

## **1. MINUTES OF MEETING ON 30 NOVEMBER 2016**

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting on 30 November 2016 were a true record of the meeting.

## **2. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

## **POLICE SCOTLAND**

### **4. POLICE SCOTLAND SCRUTINY REPORT, QUARTER 3, 1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2016**

Chief Supt Ivor Marshall thanked Members for the support they had shown to Police Scotland since the inception of the Committee in November 2015, stating that he had valued the probing questions and constructive comments from Members.

Chief Supt Marshall provided a context for the report on both national and Divisional matters. Nationally, he advised that Police Scotland had published a 10-year strategy to deliver policing throughout the country. The strategy would focus on how the service had to change to meet modern day demands and would be built around 1, 3 and 5 year delivery plans. The Strategy, which was commissioned and led by Chief Constable Philip Gormley, was now out to consultation for 10 weeks. Chief Supt Marshall also highlighted that 80% of police time was spent on areas other than crime, for example providing a support service to vulnerable people and those at risk. He stated that this service needed a partnership approach and a sustainable operating model. He acknowledged that there had been budget challenges but these had not diminished their ability to deliver an excellent service. Chief Supt Marshall also advised that in the press today, it was reported that the penalty for using a mobile phone while driving was a £200 fine and 6 penalty points. A conviction for new drivers would mean that they would lose their licence immediately. Divisionally, there had been an upturn in violence and serious assaults although no particular pattern had emerged. House break-ins had also risen.

Councillor McLeod enquired if relationships between the Police and local partner agencies (eg Traffic wardens and ASB Team) were good and Chief Supt Marshall replied that his understanding was that local relationships were very good. Councillor McLeod added that it was useful for people to know that information received by the Police Scotland Contact

Centre was shared with partners. Chief Supt Marshall agreed and stated that the performance of the Contact Centre had improved significantly. The Chair stated that it was difficult to over emphasise the importance of the Contact Centre as that was often the only point of contact for members of the public. Chief Supt Marshall replied that the Chief Constable recognised the importance of the Contact Centre.

Councillor MacKenzie was concerned to read in the Police Scrutiny report that a number of targets had been missed and some by a substantial margin. Chief Supt Marshall assured Members that there had been no decrease in the service provided by the Police. He also stated that, in future, he hoped that performance data would focus more on outcomes than on targets, as he considered that this would be a more valuable indicator of performance.

The Chair asked if there was an explanation for the rise in violent crime and Chief Supt Marshall outlined a number of factors which had contributed to the increase.

Councillor McAllister was concerned at media reports of an increase in the number of attacks on public servants eg. nurses, ambulance staff and teachers. Chief Supt Marshall stated that these figures were monitored closely and analysed to see if new procedures needed to be put in place for front line staff.

Chief Insp Matt Paden paid tribute to Inspector Alan Hogarth who had recently retired after 30 years service with the Police. Inspector Andy Hill was now in post and would be in contact with local partners.

Chief Insp Paden summarised the Scrutiny report. He advised that Indicator 2 (reducing the number of Domestic Housebreaking Offences) had increased 8.9% from last year and that robust prevention activity was taking place. Indicator 3 (the detection rate for Domestic Housebreakings) was slightly below target and a number of complex enquiries were ongoing. Indicator 4 (reducing the number of Domestic Abuse incidents) was below target. Chief Inspector Paden explained that this could be the result of encouraging the public to report this type of crime as well as reflecting the number of unreported incidents which emerged during enquiries. The detection rate for these crimes had fallen, but 70% of the crimes were historical in nature and therefore more complex to investigate. Indicators 8 and 9 (reducing the number of Disorder and ASB incidents) were both below target but a Short Life Working group formed within East Lothian to explore data recording changes, had found that increases were recorded partly due to recent improvements in data capturing methods and call handling capacity. The Working Group also predicted that this increase would reduce. Indicator 10 showed an increase in the number of Hate Incidents but this figure could, in part, be due to more victims finding the confidence to come forward and report those crimes. Chief Insp Paden provided some context for Indicator 13 (reducing the level of Group 1 Violent Crime). He advised that the majority of the increase related to the number of serious assaults where, in all but two of the incidents, the victim and the offender/suspect were known to one another. Perhaps surprisingly, 30% of the serious assaults were of a domestic nature where neither the victim nor the complainer had come forward before to report an assault. A number of the incidents were also the result of the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit checking previous partners and more crimes being recorded. No serious assaults had been linked to licensed premises settings. Indicator 17 (Reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads) showed that there had been two fatalities on East Lothian roads.

Councillor McLeod enquired if there were hotspots in East Lothian where housebreaking and anti-social behaviour were more prevalent and Chief Insp Paden replied that these crimes occurred across East Lothian. He added that a number of domestic housebreakings tended to involve unoccupied homes and the Police were engaging with the construction industry and advising homeowners on how they can improve security.

Councillor Goodfellow, Chair of the Licensing Board, enquired how many of the assaults were alcohol related, if not on licensed premises, and Chief Insp Paden replied that a number of the serious assaults had involved alcohol and it was important to make that point. Councillor Goodfellow also referred to Indicator 21 (Increase in the number of people detected for supplying drugs) and stated that it was Council policy for anyone convicted of a drugs offence to lose their tenancy of a Council house.

The Chair thanked the Police representatives for their reports and stated that the commentary they had given was important, as sometimes negative figures can mask positive developments. He stated that it was important to analyse the detail and to identify trends where they exist.

## **5. ONGOING MEASURES TO TACKLING ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Depute Chief Executive, Partnerships and Community Services, had submitted a report to advise the Committee of ongoing actions currently being undertaken by local partner agencies in tackling antisocial behaviour.

Kenny Black, Safer Communities Team Leader presented the report. He advised that the recent reported increase in the number of complaints made to Police Scotland had necessitated further enquiries into the way in which the Police and Council were recording antisocial behaviour complaints. Discussions had taken place within the context of a Short Life Working Group and an interrogation of antisocial complaints made to the Council showed a decrease from a figure of 1129 received during 1 April to 31 December 2015 to 1097 received during the first three quarters of the current reporting period. Mr Black gave a breakdown of complaints by ward and by category of complaint.

Mr Black also outlined the actions taken to address complaints which included the recruitment of an additional Council based Antisocial Behaviour Investigation Officer bringing the total number of such officers to four, one for each Partnership area. The issuing of Parental Advisory Letters had also been re-introduced to alert and support parents when their children were witnessed by officers behaving in an anti-social fashion. Other initiatives aimed at addressing the most visible aspect of antisocial behaviour included increased weekend joint patrols, Problem Solving Partnerships, proficient use of CCTV cameras and the ongoing work of Police Scotland's two Youth Community Officers. Mr Black also advised that antisocial behaviour figures can be inflated by multiple complaints being received from the same individual and reported that repeat victims were now visited by an officer from the Council's Safer Communities Team and a Police Officer in order that there can be a joint tailored approach to antisocial behaviour problems.

In response to a question by Councillor MacKenzie, Mr Black confirmed that there was one operational mobile van at present with a CCTV camera. This vehicle was being used and upgraded and it was hoped that the vehicle would be fully operational by the end of March.

Councillor McLeod requested a review of CCTV operations in his Tranent Ward. The Chair stated that CCTV plays a very important part in the detection of crime and in securing convictions. It was vital that these operations were as effective as possible. Tom Shearer, Head of Communities and Partnerships, stated that the Council was in the process of upgrading cameras from analogue to digital.

Councillor Goodfellow stated that, while there is a low level of antisocial behaviour in North Berwick, he has always been very impressed by how rapidly the Safer Communities Team responds to calls. This provided re-assurance for residents.

The Chair stated that antisocial behaviour had a significant impact on communities and this report was an example of partnership working at its best.

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

## **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

### **3. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (SFRS) LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT, Q 3, 1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2016**

David Farries, SFRS Area Manager, updated the Committee on national and divisional matters. He began by advising that the Service was reviewing how the Local Plan was presented in order that it would become more aligned to the Improvement Plan and reflect a more outcome based approach. He also stated that the role of the SFRS in the community had changed significantly, making it more difficult to showcase all the work now carried out by the Service. The transformation agenda included identifying fuel poverty during Home Fire Safety Visits, conducting dementia awareness training programmes and attending out of hospital heart cardiac arrests. SFRS Officers were also tackling anti-social behaviour in schools. Mr Farries added that services provided were constantly monitored and reviewed, and the focus was now firmly on prevention which would have positive benefits for the future. The Service also continued to work closely with the Local Area Partnerships and other partners.

Mr Farries reported that, following on and off-station reviews, a new shift system would be introduced next month, standardising the shift pattern for officers throughout Scotland. This would not affect service delivery but would enhance the effectiveness of the Service. However, in another development, the Service had returned to a more local based approach to recruit retained fire fighters.

Tam McGrath, Group Manager, Community Safety, summarised the Performance Report. He advised that on five of the six key performance indicators, the Service had performed well. Only the figure for All Deliberate Fires was higher than the previous year to date. There had been 54 deliberate fires during this reporting period, 16 of them during a 2-week period in October 2016. The wards which had been most affected by this type of fire were Preston/Seton/Gosford, Fa'side and Musselburgh, however, it was expected that the number of deliberate fires would fall in the next quarter. Mr McGrath was pleased to report that a multi-agency approach to these fires was proving effective in dealing with such incidents.

Mr McGrath stated that the Service had responded to 19 Accidental Fires during this quarter, an increase of 2 over the same period last year. However, the long term trend was slightly below the Scottish average and there had been no reported fatalities. Mr McGrath advised that the Service had attended 15 road traffic collisions (RTCs) during this quarter, three fewer than the same period last year and there had been 18 casualties from non-fire emergencies, five fewer than last year. There had also been a significant reduction in the number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) from 127 to 96 and only two of those had been malicious.

Steve Gourlay, Group Manager, summarised the Protection and Prevention Activities. He reported that the Quarter 3 targets for Fire Safety Enforcement Audits were below target but re-assured Members that all high risk premises had been audited, including hospital premises, care homes and hostels. Mr Gourlay also advised that the number of Home Fire Safety Visits carried out was above target, with 284 visits carried out and free smoke alarms fitted during 142 of these visits. Mr Gourlay also highlighted youth engagement activities and work carried out with vulnerable adults.

Councillor Libberton enquired who requested Home Fire Safety Visits and Mr Gourlay advised that most referrals were received from partner agencies e.g. NHS, Police, and the Council. On home visits, his officers also referred occupants for adaptations and fuel poverty to reduce the impact of hardship on people's lives. David Farries added that, for maximum impact, it was important that fire officers targeted the homes of the most vulnerable people in the community.

Councillor Gillies thanked the Police and Fire Service representatives for their comprehensive reports and commented that this committee had heard excellent examples of multi agency working in East Lothian. He also thanked the Chair, Councillor Day, who was attending his last meeting of the Committee, for the excellent contribution he had made since the Committee was formed in 2015.

OTHER

**6. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17**

The Annual Work Programme was noted.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 7 June 2017

Signed .....

Councillor Tim Day  
Convener of the Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee