



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

**WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

Committee Members Present:

Councillor L Bruce
Councillor F Dugdale
Councillor J Findlay
Councillor N Gilbert
Councillor J Goodfellow (Convener)
Councillor J Henderson
Councillor K McLeod

Police Scotland

Chief Superintendent L Clark
Chief Inspector S Duncan
Inspector K Warhurst

East and Midlothian Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Mr S Gourlay, Area Manager
Mr S Oliver, Station Manager – East Lothian

Council Officials Present:

Mr T Shearer, Head of Communities and Partnerships
Mr K Black, Safer Communities Team Leader
Ms C Dora, Executive Officer

Clerk:

Mrs L Gillingwater

Apologies:

Councillor C McGinn

Declarations of Interest:

None

1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 29 NOVEMBER 2017

The Committee agreed to approve the minute of the meeting held on 29 November 2017.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Item 5: Service Transformation Presentation – in response to a comment from Councillor McLeod as regards the recruitment and retention of retained firefighters, Stephen Gourlay, Fire and Rescue Service Area Manager, advised that, as at the end of May across the five retained stations in East Lothian there were 1–1.75 vacancies, apart from North Berwick, which was carrying 6 vacancies. However, he reported that the situation at North Berwick was improving.

Item: 3: Matters Arising – Tom Shearer, Head of Infrastructure, reported that since the last meeting the CCTV recording facilities at the Contact Centre had been upgraded to a digital platform, and that a number of cameras had also been renewed. He added that cameras would be replaced on a priority basis, and that all cameras were currently fully functioning.

Councillor Findlay asked if CoSLA had reported back on CCTV provision across Scotland; Mr Shearer advised that those discussions had not yet concluded.

Item 6: Police Scotland Scrutiny Report, 1 April to 30 September 2017 – Chief Inspector Steven Duncan advised that he would not be able to provide a breakdown of historical and recent sexual crimes, due to data collection methods. He offered Members the opportunity to visit the Police Control Room; Members welcomed this invitation.

3. DEALING WITH ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services) advising of the number of antisocial behaviour complaints made to the Council during the reporting period (1 October 2017 – 31 March 2018) and advising of ongoing actions being undertaken by local partner agencies in tackling antisocial behaviour.

Kenny Black, Safer Communities Team Leader, presented the report. He drew particular attention to Sections 3.7-3.8 of the report, noting the reduction in antisocial behaviour complaints and the nature of complaints. He advised that there were currently 24 live ASBOs in place in East Lothian. Referring to Sections 3.9-3.11, Mr Black outlined measures in place to reduce antisocial behaviour. He also made reference to a new app which would allow members of the public to report antisocial behaviour from mobile devices.

In response to questions from Members, Mr Black provided an explanation as to how multi-faceted complaints were categorised. He noted that the various agencies met weekly to consider the targeting of resources to antisocial behaviour 'hot spots', and that, where appropriate, parental advisory letters were issued with a view to preventing young people participating in antisocial behaviour – certain checks were carried out with social services prior to issuing the letters. He advised that, by law, ASBOs could not be given to children under 12 years of age, and that those over 16 years of age were dealt with as an adult (unless under a supervision order). With reference to the Antisocial Behaviour Policy, Mr Black pointed out that tenants of social or private landlords could be evicted for committing antisocial behaviour offences. He also highlighted the powers available to community wardens, noting that any changes to these powers would be subject to a change in legislation.

Councillor McLeod paid tribute to the work of the Safer Communities Team in tackling antisocial behaviour. His views were shared by Councillor Goodfellow.

Discussion

The Committee agreed to note the report.

4. SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICING 2017/18

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services) providing a response to a request from the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) for local authority views to feed into their Annual Review of Policing 2017/18.

Christine Dora, Executive Officer, presented the report, drawing attention to a number of aspects of the draft response to the Annual Review of Policing. She advised that the response had been drafted with the input of relevant Council officers and Councillor Goodfellow.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the draft response (attached at Appendix A to the report).

5. POLICE SCOTLAND SCRUTINY REPORT, 1 OCTOBER 2017 – 31 MARCH 2018

Chief Superintendent Lesley Clark introduced Chief Inspector Steven Duncan, who had recently taken over from Chief Inspector Matt Paden, who was now working within the public protection unit. She spoke of improvement and engagement activities underway within Police Scotland and advised that Members would be invited to contribute their views on this. She also drew attention to the successful Police Scotland Youth Volunteers initiative.

Chief Inspector Duncan provided a detailed summary of the performance report, highlighting the change in the format of the report. He advised of the performance results for each of the eight categories compared with the previous year, as well as highlighting prevention, intervention and enforcement activity.

Chief Inspector Duncan responded to a number of questions on roads policing, advising that this service was part of a national division, with hubs in Dalkeith and Duns, and that there were ongoing discussions as regards establishing an additional hub between those locations, as well as other proposed changes to this function. He noted that Police Scotland discussed roads-related issues with the Council on a regular basis. He added that road traffic collisions on the A1 were included in the statistics – he offered to provide more detailed information on this in future. He also undertook to provide further information on the use of Pro Laser speed guns.

In response to a question from Councillor Henderson on agricultural vehicles on rural public roads, Chief Superintendent Clark highlighted the challenges in addressing driver behaviour, but suggested that action could be taken, such as a leaflet drop to farmers, or through the rural crime group. She undertook to give this issue further consideration.

On sexual crimes, Chief Inspector Duncan reported that the detection rate had remained relatively unchanged over the past five years, and on domestic abuse, he advised that 'Bystander' training was carried out by community safety officers who targeted certain groups; he noted that this could be rolled out further.

Councillor McLeod asked about trends as regards re-offending. Chief Inspector Duncan indicated that there was a direct link between spikes in crime and offenders who had just been released from prison, particularly as regards car and drug-related crimes.

Councillor Henderson asked about public engagement, referring to the poor attendance at CAPP meetings. Chief Inspector Duncan reported that this was an area under discussion; he noted that CAPP meetings would be promoted via social media. Chief Superintendent Clark added that it was hoped that there could be national action on communication and engagement.

Councillor Bruce paid tribute to the community officers working within his ward. Chief Superintendent Clark also expressed her gratitude regarding the discretionary efforts of officers.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the report.

6. ARMED POLICING – VERBAL UPDATE

Inspector Keith Warhurst provided the Committee with an update on armed policing activities within East Lothian. He informed the Committee that a national armed policing unit had been established on the creation of Police Scotland, and that armed response vehicles (ARVs) were equipped with guns and ammunition. He advised that as well as carrying out high-visibility patrols, officers in ARVs may also be deployed to other priority incidents. He provided an explanation of the training required of armed officers, and as to how this resource was utilised. He appreciated that members of the public may have concerns about armed policing, but he assured the Committee that a number of measures were in place to ensure that resources were deployed appropriately. He added that feedback from the public on the use of armed policing had been positive.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the update.

7. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT, 1 OCTOBER 2017 – 31 MARCH 2018

Stephen Gourlay, SFRS Area Manager, summarised the key points of the report. He noted that there had been 1595 incidents in 2017/18, an increase of 118 compared to the previous year. He drew particular attention to fire casualty data, noting that East Lothian was above average for 2017/18. Members were advised that more than 1000 home safety visits had been carried out during the period. On false alarms, he reported that the Service had responded to more than 500 such incidents, highlighting the impact of this on resources. He indicated that there would be a greater focus on education for schools and businesses for the coming year.

Councillor Bruce asked if action could be taken against businesses with faulty fire detection equipment. Mr Gourley indicated that system checks should be included in every business's fire risk assessment. He advised that the Service was working with frequent offenders to reduce call-outs. He added that enforcement action could be taken against businesses which didn't comply with Fire & Rescue Service recommendations.

Councillor Gilbert asked if there were any contributing factors to the increase in fire casualties. Mr Gourlay indicated that 50% of incidents involved cooking, and that other factors included mobility issues, mental health problems and smoking.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the report.

8. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PREVENTION AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES 2017/18

Stephen Gourlay, SFRS Area Manager, highlighted the prevention and protection activities undertaken during the reporting period, including work being carried out in schools, home safety visits, and partnership working with other agencies. He noted that there had been an increase in deliberate fires during 2017/18, but that there had been a reduction in the year to date as a result of multi-agency working.

On community engagement, Mr Gourlay reported that the Service was using social media at both the local and national levels – such campaigns covered deliberate fire-raising.

Responding to a question from Councillor Goodfellow on the spread of home fire safety visits, Mr Gourlay advised that visits were generally carried out on a referral basis as well as the demand on resources.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the report.

9. EAST LoTHIAN COMMUNITY FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2017/18

Stephen Gourlay, SFRS Area Manager, reported that the consultation on the Plan had ended in December. He pointed out that the Plan focused on partnership working in the local area, and fire-proofing.

Mr Gourlay was advised that the Plan may require Council approval – the Clerk would look into this.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the East Lothian Community Fire and Rescue Plan 2017/18.

10. UPDATE ON SERVICE TRANSFORMATION

Stephen Gourlay, SFRS Area Manager, reported that pay and transformation negotiations were ongoing, and that there would be a conference in July to consider the Scottish pay negotiations. This process had had an impact on the delivery of the transformation programme.

Mr Gourlay informed the Committee that the new training facility at Newbridge would be completed by March 2019, and would update Members on this at the next meeting. He also

advised that the Service was looking to replace one fire appliance at North Berwick in late 2018/early 2019.

In response to a question as regards the training facility, Mr Gourlay noted that there was not sufficient capacity at Cambuslang for all training to be carried out there, and that other training facilities required to be replaced. He added that the new facility would be more accessible due to its location.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the update.

10. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

The work programme was updated and approved.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 28 November 2018

Signed

Councillor Jim Goodfellow
Convener of the Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee