

## **PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.**

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,  
on 11 September 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Hugh Hunter (Chair), Siobhian Brown, Ian Cavana, Ian Davis and Arthur Spurling.

Apology: Councillor Chris Cullen.

Attending: D. Gillies, Director – Place; W. Carlaw, Service Lead - Democratic Governance; K. Anderson, Service Lead – Corporate and Housing Policy; C. Monaghan, Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities; Chief Superintendent M. Hargreaves and Chief Inspector B. Anderson, Police Scotland; P. Linton, Quay Zone General Manager; and E. Wyllie, Committee Services Officer.

### **1. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting.**

The minutes of 12 June 2019 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved, moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Cavana.

### **3. Action Log and Work Programme.**

There was submitted an Action Log and Work Programme ([issued](#)) for this Panel.

The Panel, having noted that all outstanding actions were now complete

**Decided:** to note the action log and work programme.

### **4. Local Performance Report: Police Scotland.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 September 2019 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People providing information about the mid-year performance of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire.

The Chair welcomed Chief Superintendent Mark Hargreaves and Chief Inspector Brian Anderson to the meeting.

Thereon, the Service Lead - Corporate and Housing Policy introduced the report before handing over to both officers.

The Chief Superintendent referred to the performance summary reporting period from 1 April to 31 July 2019 and outlined a number of statistics and activity. He also referred to new initiatives such as the Contact Assessment Model with the aim of making the control rooms much more effective in dealing with initial calls and the Mobility Project which would make use of smart phone technology. The Chief Inspector provided a further breakdown in relation to what the data consisted of for South Ayrshire.

Various questions were asked by Members of the Panel and responses were provided by the Chief Superintendent and the Chief Inspector as follows:-

- (1) in relation to the data on increased drug supply charges and how Community Councils felt that drug related issues were getting worse, it was noted that there was a greater focus on drug detection with a Detective Inspector recently appointed for this purpose with a number of arrests made. The Chief Superintendent commented on the intelligence gathering from local communities and advised that reporting concerns could be done online and anonymously to alleviate fear. It was noted that due process was followed in apprehending perpetrators and that there were four known drug crime gangs with links to down South as well as significant seizures made by Police Scotland across the Area and the Division;
- (2) in respect of the 9.2% overall increase in crime across South Ayrshire, a question was asked if this was a similar position across Scotland-wide. The Chief Superintendent indicated that it depended on the type of crime but there had been national increases in certain crimes such as:- shoplifting / credit theft; sexual crime / online offences; and cyber-crime;
- (3) in relation to instances of civil unrest, for example, there had been suggestions that these might occur as a result of a No deal Brexit, a question was asked in terms of policing and drafting in officers from other forces. The Chief Superintendent commented on a national reserve of police officers trained in crowd management and disorder. It was noted that these officers could be deployed as and when required and were currently being used for various processions taking place;
- (4) a follow-up question was asked if South Ayrshire based officers were deployed to work at public processions in Glasgow and the Chief Superintendent replied that this could be the case and, likewise, Glasgow based officers assisted with a recent march which took place in Ayr. It was noted that if an event was out-with capacity then Officers would be deployed within a nearby geographical area. Also, the Chief Superintendent was mindful of keeping within operational base levels to ensure resources met local demand;
- (5) in terms of an increase in housebreaking within the Kyle ward, a question was asked if this occurred in any particular area. The Chief Inspector advised that there was no particular area but, due to the rural nature of this ward, break-ins were often linked to huts, garages, business premises as well as farm buildings;
- (6) in relation to a pattern of housebreaking and whether vulnerable residents were being targeted, it was noted that reasons were varied combined with opportunistic behaviour and affluent areas. The Chief Inspector advised that he was not aware of a particular vulnerable group of residents being targeted though;
- (7) in relation to an increase in speeding, a question was raised as to whether this took place on main roads or residential streets and the Chief Inspector indicated that he would try and obtain a further breakdown of speeding incidents for the Panel, if available. A Member asked about an initiative where a community was trained on the use of speed guns and whether this approach was being rolled out in South Ayrshire as he was concerned that a report previously being developed had not been forthcoming. The Chief Inspector advised that he would be happy to contribute to such a report if this was required;

- (8) a further question was asked in relation to residential speeding and the use of 20 mile per hour zones as a traffic calming measure and whether Police Scotland would support this approach. It was noted that the Chief Inspector would contact an officer from the traffic management unit with links to Ayrshire Roads Alliance to ascertain the position and provide any feedback to this Panel;
- (9) a question was asked in relation to the efficiency of the 101 telephone service and the Chief Inspector reported, from first-hand experience, that officers appreciated the benefits of this service. Although it was noted that some public concern arose from the perceived lack of contact with a 'local' office, most feedback on the service was favourable. The Chief Inspector asked Members to contact him directly with any specific issues about the 101 service so that he could address these; and
- (10) in relation to joint working, a question was asked in respect of work undertaken with community planning partners. The Chief Inspector commented on joint working with Ayrshire College and with NHS Ayrshire and Arran and mentioned the role of the Police Liaison Officer. The Chair asked if future performance reports could contain some outcomes from partnership working and the Chief Superintendent indicated that he could provide examples, for instance, the work of the Alcohol and Drug Partnership and the A&E hospital based Navigator's Programme, an intervention model which supported people away from violence. He also advised of the availability of small amounts of funding for the three Area Commanders to identify projects in collaboration with partner organisations. It was noted that examples of a partnership approach would be included within future reports.

The Chair thanked both officers for their input.

The Panel, having scrutinised the mid-year performance of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire

**Decided:** to note the report.

## 5. **Consultation on the Draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 September 2019 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People inviting members to consider the draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland as detailed in the consultation document attached as an appendix to the report and highlight any feedback point on these draft priorities.

The Chief Superintendent referred to the consultation document and commented on the current set of priorities and highlighted the following proposed six priorities:-

- Crime and Security;
- Confidence;
- Partnerships;
- Sustainability;
- People; and
- Evidence.

Various questions were asked by Members of the Panel as follows:-

- (1) a question was asked about cyber related crime and whether Police Scotland was able to keep up-to-date with new technology. The Chief Superintendent advised that cyber capability within the force has increased due to more investment, however, this was a challenging area as officers had to adhere to legislation which obviously criminals did not. It was noted that this was a balance of officers' time spent between the online world and the physical world;
- (2) in relation to increasing public confidence to report crime, the Chief Superintendent advised that conversations with the public and local communities were important to instil confidence around reporting crime and alleviate fear of retaliation. He outlined a number of steps in place to encourage anonymous reporting and that locality policing played a role as did other agencies to offer support. The Chief Inspector referred to other types of reporting such as via the local member or via drop-in facilities within a supermarket. It was noted that there were many ways in which to interact with a police officer and develop this relationship through police presence on the streets to participating in community / school events and via the use of printed material and social media;
- (3) a question was asked in relation to the development of a local police plan and the consultation process. The Chief Inspector advised that the current Local Plan was in place from 2017 – 2020 with little change expected in light of the Strategic Police Plan consultation. He further added that Local Plans were set by local communities; and
- (4) in relation to whether Police Scotland was a 'Carer Positive Employer', the Chief Inspector advised that he was not sure if Police Scotland held this award, however, he stated that Police Scotland had a sympathetic approach to its workforce with a level of flexibility both formally and informally. In terms of whether this award could be sought for the local workforce, the Chief Inspector said that he would investigate further.

Thereon, the Chair referred to each of the consultation questions contained within Appendix 1 of the report and Members provided comments. It was noted that the Service Lead – Corporate and Housing Policy would undertake to complete the questionnaire based on this discussion and submit these comments prior to the deadline of 4 October 2019.

The Chair thanked officers for their attendance and input at this meeting.

The Panel, having considered and commented on the Draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland

**Decided:** to note that the Service Lead – Corporate and Housing Policy would complete the questionnaire and submit to the Scottish Government prior to the deadline of 4 October 2019.

## 6. **The Quay Zone Performance Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 September 2019 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People inviting members to scrutinise the performance of the Quay Zone in Girvan.

The Chair welcomed Peter Linton, the Quay Zone General Manager to the meeting.

Thereon, the Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities introduced the report before handing over to the Quay Zone General Manager who proceeded to outline the work of South Carrick Community Leisure (SCCL) in its management of the Quay Zone Community Leisure Centre in its second year of operation for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. He provided the background to the formation of SCCL and commented on:-

- general operations;
- services and performance;
- finance (including a summary extract from the draft Annual Accounts for 2018/19); and
- future initiatives and activities.

Various questions were asked by Members of the Panel as follows:-

- (1) in relation to the anticipated staffing levels during 2019/20 as a result of any reduction in the total funds being held at year-end. The Quay Zone General Manager advised that a reduction in total year end funds would not affect staffing levels. He further added that opening hours had increased and that as part of the rejuvenation of this area, employment was an important aspect of the social enterprise nature of the organisation; and
- (2) whether it would be possible to provide members with the full financial detail so that scrutiny of expenditure of the Council's contribution of £200,000 per annum could be undertaken. The Quay Zone General Manager commented on the intention to include the annual accounts in future annual reporting. In terms of the annual accounts for 2018/19, there had been a timing issue regarding their availability for this meeting, however, the Quay Zone General Manager anticipated that these would be available later in the month. It was noted that he would liaise with the Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities regarding the circulation of the accounts to Panel Members when available. The Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities provided assurances that in relation to Service Level Agreements with organisations, officers scrutinise quarterly. It was noted that the timing of the Quay Zone report for next year's annual update would coincide with the availability of full accounts.

The Chair thanked officers for their attendance and input at this meeting.

The Panel, having scrutinised the performance of the Quay Zone

**Decided:** to note the position and that the Annual Accounts for 2018/19 would be circulated to Panel Members for their information once available.

The meeting ended at 11.55 a.m.