

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 20 November 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Apology: Councillor Siobhian Brown.

Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; D. Gillies, Director – Place; C Caves, Head of Regulatory Services; M Newall, Executive Manager – Place Directorate; W. Carlaw, Service Lead - Democratic Governance; K. Anderson, Service Lead – Corporate and Housing Policy; C. Monaghan, Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities; Area Commander I. McMeekin, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Superintendent S. McGregor, Police Scotland; D. MacLean and D. Anderson, Scottish International Airshow organisers; 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 11 September 2019 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

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: Scottish Fire and Rescue.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14 November 2019 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People providing information about the mid-year performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire.

The Chair welcomed Area Commander McMeekin to the meeting.

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

The Area Commander referred to the performance summary reporting period from 1 April to 30 September 2019 and outlined a number of statistics and activity.

Various questions were asked by Members of the Panel and responses were provided by the Area Commander as follows:-

- (1) in relation to unwanted fire alarm signals, it was noted that some of these were classed as unwanted but others were viewed as 'near misses' mainly involving vulnerable people within the home environment;
- (2) in respect of any issues around the time of this year's bonfire night, the Area Commander advised that the data was currently being quality assured, therefore he could not fully comment if there had been any incidents or acts of violence within this area although there had been reports of incidents in other parts of the country. However, he highlighted the benefits of partnership working and the joint approach with community groups in relation to identifying risks of these types of fires. It was noted that information would be included within the next scheduled report from Scottish Fire and Rescue to this Panel;
- (3) in relation to a specific enquiry regarding a vulnerable person and domestic safety, it was noted that the elected member would discuss this matter with the Area Commander outwith this meeting;
- (4) whether the offer of home safety visits was widely advertised and was there a programme of home safety follow-up visits, the Area Commander outlined the referral system in place via key stakeholders to engage with hard to reach vulnerable individuals rather than undertaking an advertising campaign. He also commented that a general safety check was undertaken during visits such as that relating to the 'Falls' strategy;
- (5) in terms of the human factors involved with accidental dwelling fires and the 10% pertaining to alcohol and drug impairment, it was noted that interactions took place to determine the causal factors then key agencies were involved as required;
- (6) in relation to the demographics of those involved in road traffic collisions (RTC) and what could be done to target any emerging age profiles, the Area Commander advised that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service collected limited data on RTC as the Service's role was from a fire service response. He suggested that he would discuss with Community Planning Partners, Police Scotland and the local authority and provide feedback to members;
- (7) in terms of higher instances of deliberate fire setting within certain ward areas and whether these were within garden spaces as opposed to open public spaces, it was noted that the Area Commander would further investigate the data relating to the deliberate fire setting indicators for Ayr North and Prestwick and Troon and provide feedback to the Panel. There might also be the option to visit the relevant community councils;
- (8) in relation to the 89% of not known causes for the non-domestic fires by nature of origin, the Area Commander explained the levels of investigation;

- (9) in terms of unwanted fire alarm signals and routine call-outs to certain types of premises, the Area Commander commented on a number of actions which could be taken to reduce unwanted signals. He also advised of a sliding scale of up to six minutes which allowed the duty manager of the property to investigate whether the fire service was required or not. He highlighted the requirement to reduce unwanted signals but also the need to provide a reasonable response service, this approach took account of the profile and risk and the mobilisation of appliances;
- (10) whether there was incidents of malicious and deliberate fire setting within educational establishments at certain times within the curriculum and the Area Commander advised that he did not have any information to indicate that this was an issue for South Ayrshire;
- (11) in relation to the number and types of appliances available between 6pm and 8.00am and at weekends, the Area Commander commented on the broad range of fleet type and uses. He also commented on the advantages of new technology; and
- (12) in respect of non-fire casualties and the number of suicides across Scotland and within South Ayrshire, the Area Commander commented that he would only have information for those that the Fire Service had attended but he could discuss further with agencies and feedback any information to Panel members.

The Chair thanked the Area Commander for his input.

The Panel, having scrutinised the 2019/20 mid-year performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire and having provided feedback

Decided: to note the report.

5. **Letter to Stakeholders – Strategic Police Plan Refresh.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14 November 2019 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People inviting members to consider the content of the existing Strategic Police Plan and provide views on the key strategic challenges and opportunities for the improvement of policing in Scotland.

The Chair welcomed Superintendent McGregor to the meeting.

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

The Superintendent provided information on the Contact Assessment Model and how this model would operate in terms of the routing of telephone calls. He advised that the rollout of the model was planned for Ayrshire on 21 January 2020 and that there would be meetings with the three Ayrshire Chief Executives and relevant Chairs prior to rollout as the impact of this new approach might be felt in housing, education and social work, for example. A question was asked whether this new model would make a noticeable difference in terms of a reduction in the time spent on bureaucracy. The Superintendent explained that it would reduce the number of incidents that Police Scotland would need to attend, however, bureaucracy was more about accountability and scrutiny although Police Scotland were looking at ways to be smarter at this in terms of the use of new technology and mobile working as well as ICT platforms across Police Scotland. A member commented that this approach was preferable to the current 101 system.

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

- (1) in relation to encouraging reporting, the Superintendent commented on the community perspective and gathering community intelligence as well as the benefits of campus police officers. He advised of the need for an understanding of social media and the development of a communications strategy which would also assist with reporting;
- (2) in relation to a comment made at the previous agenda item on the number of suicides across South Ayrshire, the Superintendent commented on a community and collaborative approach as this was a complex issue consisting of a number of profiles, issues and mental health concerns. It was noted that a working group was currently being established in East Ayrshire Council which would attempt to identify causes, leading to the development of a strategy; and
- (3) in terms of partnership working relating to domestic violence matters and information sharing in light of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Superintendent commented on adhering to GDPR legislation and the requirement to be mindful with information sharing.

The Chair thanked the Superintendent for his input.

The Panel, having considered the Strategic Police Plan, Policing 2026: Serving a Changing Scotland

Decided: to note that the Service Lead – Corporate and Housing Policy would feed back the views expressed at this meeting to the Scottish Police Authority prior to the forthcoming deadline.

Adjournment.

The time being 11.15 a.m., the Panel adjourned.

Resumption of Meeting.

The meeting resumed at 11.20 a.m.

6. Exclusion of press and public.

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the remaining item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

7. The Scottish International Airshow 2018 Performance Report.

There was submitted a report (Members only) of 11 November 2019 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People inviting members to scrutinise the performance of the Scottish International Airshow which received funding from South Ayrshire Council.

Various questions were asked by Members of the Panel and the Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities responded accordingly.

At this point, Mr MacLean and Mr Anderson, organisers of the Scottish International Airshow, entered the room and the Chair welcomed them both to the meeting. Various questions and concerns were raised by Members of the Panel and Mr MacLean and Mr Anderson provided verbal responses.

Adjournment.

The time being 12.40 p.m., the Panel adjourned.

Resumption of Meeting.

The meeting resumed at 12.53 p.m.

The Panel, having scrutinised the report

Decided:

- (1) to refer the matter to the Leadership Panel and request that the Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities submit a report highlighting the response to date by the Scottish International Airshow to the requests for information sought by officers regarding the Minute of Agreement between the Council and the Airshow (Scotland) Ltd.; and
- (2) to recommend that the Leadership Panel considers the terms of this report and requests the Service Lead - Community Services and Facilities to write to the Scottish International Airshow immediately requiring them to provide information evidencing their full compliance with the Minute of Agreement within seven days thereof.

8. Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Report.

Decided: not to authorise the disclosure under Standing Order 32.4 of the whole or part of the following report:-

- The Scottish International Airshow 2018 Performance Report.

The meeting ended at 12.55 p.m.