

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
20 MARCH 2019

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee held in the Council Chambers, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors P Barrett, B Brawn, R Brock (substituting for Councillor A Bailey), E Drysdale, T Gray, D Illingworth, R McCall (substituting for Councillor C Ahern), S McCole, T McEwan, C Reid, C Shiers and R Watters.

In Attendance: B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment); C Mailer, M Dow, E Ritchie, J Cruickshanks, M Smith, S Watson and P Turner (all Housing and Environment); C Flynn, A Taylor and F Robertson (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Also in Attendance: Chief Superintendent A Todd, Chief Inspector I Scott, Sergeant K Thompson and Detective Inspector D Keith (all Police Scotland); Area Manager G Pryde and Group Manager B McLintock (both Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); C Stewart (Tenants' Representative); and L Davies (Audit Scotland).

Apology for Absence: Councillors C Ahern and A Bailey.

Councillor Barrett, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led the discussion for Arts. 128-133(i) and 135-136 and the Vice-Convener for Arts. 133(ii)-134.

128. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. An apology for absence and a substitute was noted as above.

129. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of the Councillors Code of Conduct.

130. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF 23 JANUARY 2019 FOR APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE

The minute of the meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee of 23 January 2019 (Arts. 20-28) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 34 THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS TO CONSIDER ITEMS P1 & P2 AT THIS POINT AND TO RECOMMENCE THE PUBLIC SESSION WITH POLICE AND FIRE: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT FOLLOWED BY THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE.

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IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULED 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973.

131. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – OPERATIONAL UPDATE FOR PERTH AND KINROSS

The Committee received and noted a joint verbal report from Area Manager G Pryde and Group Manager B McLintock of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on information which was not to be made publically available.

132. POLICE SCOTLAND – OPERATIONAL UPDATE FROM PERTH AND KINROSS

Police Scotland had no operational update to report.

THE PUBLIC AND PRESS WERE RE-ADMITTED TO THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

133. POLICE AND FIRE REFORM: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

(i) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Quarterly Performance Report – 1 October to 31 December 2018

There was submitted a report by Area Manager G Pryde, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (19/75) on the performance of the SFRS against the priorities, performance indicators and targets detailed within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth and Kinross 2017-20, for the third quarter, 1 October to 31 December 2018.

Councillor Drysdale made reference to the regular callouts being made to Perth Prison and queried whether these were as a result of deliberate acts of fire-raising. In response Area Manager Pryde confirmed that six of the callouts had been as a result of deliberate fires being set in cells, with a further fire being started accidentally. He advised that SFRS continue to engage with prison staff regarding these issues and assured Members that a resilient and well organised response to these calls was in place to help minimise any damage caused.

Councillor Illingworth made reference to the total of non-fatal road casualties and sought some clarification as to what exactly constitutes a casualty in these circumstances. In response Area Manager Pryde advised that a casualty will be recorded if first aid had to be performed, this can be anything from a low-level injury right up to the most serious of injuries.

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Councillor Shiers made reference to the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' Campaign and queried whether funding was in place to allow this campaign to continue. In response Area Manager Pryde confirmed that partners remained fully committed to the campaign and that sufficient funding is in place to keep the campaign resourced in the short-term.

Councillor Barrett made reference to the leaflet on unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) attached as Appendix 3 to the report, which are handed out to premises where there have been unwanted fire alarm signals, he queried how the Perth and Kinross area compared proportionally against the rest of Scotland in terms of the UFAS encountered. In response Area Manager Pryde confirmed that Perth and Kinross does not have a significant number of UFAS, however SFRS have national agreed responses, locally the SFRS continue to engage and target premises to help make a difference.

Councillor Reid made reference to fatal road traffic casualties and queried the annual target figure of four and sought some clarification on why this was not set at zero. In response Area Manager Pryde explained that by using historical evidence on the road structures in the Perth and Kinross area targets are set using a rolling three-year average but assured Members that work will continue with all partners to try and drive these down further with the ultimate target being zero.

(ii) Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area – Quarterly Performance Report – 1 October to 31 December 2018

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent A Todd, Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside) (19/76) on the performance of Police Scotland against the local policing priorities for the Perth and Kinross area as set out in the Local Policing Plan for the period 1 October – 31 December 2018.

Councillor Brawn made reference to the recent incident in Christchurch, New Zealand and queried whether Police Scotland see a surge of racial abuse or hate crimes. In response Chief Superintendent A Todd advised that there is a national response to step up and Police Scotland anticipate increases in these types of crimes but Chief Superintendent A Todd reassured Members that Police Scotland had seen no such increase in the Perth and Kinross area or nationally.

Councillor McCall made reference to a recent seminar held in Blairgowrie by a Community Officer on the growing problem of internet banking frauds and queried whether this was something that was going to be carried out in other rural areas. In response Chief Inspector Scott confirmed that we continue to work with the banking networks, the care and social work networks and communities to raise awareness of these

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cyber related crimes and confirmed he would continue to highlight these in his weekly bulletin issued to communities.

Councillor Illingworth made reference to the statistical breakdown of all the Wards in Perth and Kinross and queried what the definitions of Groups 1-5 crimes are. In response Chief Inspector Scott confirmed that he would provide for clarity to Members a written breakdown of all the definitions of the various groups.

In response to a question from Councillor McEwan on the problem of shops selling illegal tobacco products and the issue of public safety, Chief Inspector Scott confirmed that there is a concern, not just with tobacco but also with alcohol and highlighted some national cases where members of the public had suffered health effects by consuming counterfeit alcohol.

Detective Inspector K Duncan then provided Members with a presentation covering all aspects of Group 2 sexual offence crimes.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT A TODD, CHIEF INSPECTOR I SCOTT, SERGEANT K THOMPSON, DETECTIVE INSPECTOR K DUNCAN, AREA MANAGER G PRYDE AND GROUP MANAGER B MCLINTOCK ALL LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

134. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer (19/77) providing an update on the activities of the Community Planning Partnership.

Resolved:

The progress made in relation to Community Planning objectives, be noted.

F ROBERTSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

135. HOUSING CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment (19/78) providing updates on (1) the contribution housing is making to delivering the Health and Social Care priorities within the Strategic Commissioning Plan; and (2) the achievements delivered, the impact these have had on outcomes for people along with an overview of some of the challenges and next steps.

C Mailer, Head of Housing, delivered a presentation providing a summary of the report.

Resolved:

- (i) The contribution the Housing Service has made to the implementation of the Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Strategic Commissioning Plan 2016 – 2019, be noted.

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- (ii) It be noted that the Chief Officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership, agreed through approval at the Integrated Joint Board on 15 February 2019, to integrate the Housing Contribution Statement within the revised Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Commissioning Plan.
- (iii) The proposal to integrate the contribution housing makes toward the delivery of the strategic aims within the revised Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Commissioning Plan, be approved.

136. REVISED COMMON ALLOCATIONS POLICY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/79) (1) providing an overview of a 'light-touch' review of the Common Housing Allocation Policy which has been undertaken with partners and in consultation with key stakeholders; and (2) seeking Committee approval on the revised changes to the document.

Resolved:

The revised changes to the Common Allocations Policy as detailed in Report 19/79 be approved, with an implementation date set as 1 April 2019.

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