

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE  
30 OCTOBER 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 30 October 2019 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors B Brawn, C Ahern, A Bailey, P Barrett, E Drysdale, T Gray, D Illingworth, A Jarvis, S McCole, T McEwan, B Pover, C Shiers and R Watters.

In Attendance: B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment); C Mailer, M Dow, S Coyle, N Robson, J Cruickshank, B Tonner, S Watson and C Cranmer (up to and including Art. 530) (all Housing and Environment); S Hendry, A Taylor and D Stokoe (from Art. 526(ii) up to and including Art. 527) (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Also in Attendance: Chief Superintendent A Todd, Sergeant K Thompson and Sergeant C Bryce (all Police Scotland) (all up to and including Art. 526); Area Manager G Pryde and Group Manager B McLintock (both Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) (both up to and including Art. 526); and G Low and M McLaren (Tenants' Representatives).

Councillor Brawn, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led the discussion for Arts. 521-523, 527-528 and 530-532, and the Vice-Convener for Arts. 524-526 and 529.

### **521. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. The Convener thanked Councillor P Barrett for his work and commitment as the previous Convener of the Committee. Councillor P Barrett responded by thanking the Convener, members of the committee and Council staff.

### **522. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **523. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF 21 AUGUST 2019 FOR APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE**

The minute of the meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee of 21 August 2019 (Arts. 385-394) 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 AGREED 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 SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973.**

**524. 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 McIntock of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on information which was not to be made publicly available.

**525. 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**

**526. POLICE AND FIRE REFORM: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT**

**(i) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Quarterly Performance Report – 1 July to 30 September 2019**

There was submitted a report by Area Manager G Pryde, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (19/295) 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 second quarter, 1 July to 30 September 2019.

Councillor Drysdale made reference to the recent fire which resulted in a loss of life at the B&M Store in the St Catherine's Retail Park, Perth and queried exactly how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service mobilise to deal with such a large-scale fire and how support is provided from other parts of the country. In response Area Manager Pryde confirmed that at the peak of the fire fifteen appliances were in attendance, made up from appliances from Perth Fire Station, other areas of Perth and Kinross with additional appliances coming from across Scotland. He further commented that very positive multi-agency work was carried out with colleagues in Police Scotland and from the Council. Group Manager McIntock further commented that a multi-agency meeting involving all partners was quickly organised which helped bring the incident under control. He further commented that the fire was brought under control within 2-3 hours.

Councillor Barrett made reference to the recent publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry report and queried what communications and engagement activity the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Council are planning in the immediate future in order to provide the

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correct advice to residents around the best safety advice in the event of a fire occurring in a multi-storey property.

In response Area Manager Pryde confirmed that as the Inquiry has been ongoing the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Prevention Protection National Directorate have been monitoring the situation and will review the report and make sure any lessons required to be learned are learnt across the whole of Scotland. He further commented that they will continue to work with the Council in order to keep promoting the 'Staysafe' message. Group Manager McLintock further commented that a lot of work continues to be carried out with Perth and Kinross Council around high-rise buildings which will continue alongside the Grenfell report being analysed fully.

**Resolved:**

The performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in Perth and Kinross area for the first quarter, 1 April to 30 June 2019, as detailed in Report 19/222, be noted.

D STOKOE ENTERED THE MEETING DURING THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

**(ii) Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area – Quarterly Performance Report – 1 July to 30 September 2019**

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent A Todd, Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside) (19/296) 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 second quarter, 1 July to 30 September 2019.

Councillor Watters made reference to the new personal devices that have been issued to all officers and queried if these have now been rolled out to all front-line officers and whether any analysis has been carried out which shows an increase in productivity of officers. In response Chief Superintendent Todd confirmed that the devices have now been rolled out across the entirety of Tayside up to the rank of Inspector and feedback from officers has been very positive. He further commented that the devices were still in development with new features being added continually and that the roll-out across other divisions in Scotland was now underway with a built-in review period where analytical analysis of any efficiency / productivity gains will be carried out by an outside agency on the business benefits of the devices.

Councillor Drysdale made reference to the emerging issue of 'county lines' and 'cuckooing' and asked for a more details on exactly what 'county lines' is and why Perth and Kinross may be targeted for this type of criminality. In response Chief Superintendent Todd confirmed that the term 'county lines' is a term used to describe a method of the sale and supply of drugs which has been well established throughout

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the UK and other areas of Scotland which is predominately based in large urban areas where individuals are sent to effectively work as a satellite where drugs are transported to this person who then distributes these out in the area. He further commented that these methods generally prey upon vulnerable people in the community who either may host these individuals or operate on their behalf which is where the 'cuckooing' element comes from. He further commented that although it is an emerging trend in Perth and Kinross it is not yet deemed to be a problem.

Councillor Brawn made reference to recently carried out focussed patrols on the A9, A90 and A93 and queried whether these could be repeated in future on a more regular basis. In response Chief Superintendent Todd confirmed that operations that run on priority routes will be intelligence led which unfortunately comes down to accident history continually highlighting these routes as being problematic so will continue to be targeted.

Councillor Jarvis made reference to the stop and search figures detailed in the report producing a 50% positive result and queried how these figures compare against other areas in Scotland. In response Chief Superintendent Todd confirmed that it is very difficult to compare area against area due to the fact that each area can be vastly different with their own challenges. He further commented that he was content with the level of activity and success in this area and would be wary of discouraging officers from using the tactic but also would not like to encourage them to misuse it.

**Resolved:**

The performance of Police Scotland against the local policing priorities for the Perth and Kinross area as detailed in Report 19/296 be noted.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT A TODD, SERGEANT K THOMPSON AND SERGEANT C BRYCE, AREA MANAGER G PRYDE AND GROUP MANAGER B MCLINTOCK ALL LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

**527. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Depute Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer (19/297) providing an update on progress with Community Planning priorities since the last update on 21 August 2019.

D STOKOE LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

**528. HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2019/20 - EXCEPTION REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/298) reviewing the performance of Housing and Environment

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against its Business Management and Improvement (BMIP) for the period 1 April to 30 September 2019.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Housing and Environment Six Month Performance Summary 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 19/298, and pertaining to this Committee's area of responsibility, be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 19/298 would be submitted to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee later today for approval pertaining to that Committee's areas of responsibility;
- (iii) It be noted that Report 19/298 would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 27 November 2019 for scrutiny and comment as appropriate.

**529. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES INTERIM PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2019**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (19/299) reviewing the performance of the Education and Children's Services against its Business Management and Improvement (BMIP) for the period since 1 April 2019.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Education and Children's Services Interim Performance Summary 2019, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 19/299, and pertaining to this Committee's area of responsibility, be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 19/299 would be submitted to the Lifelong Learning Committee on 6 November 2019 for approval pertaining to that Committee's areas of responsibility;
- (iii) It be noted that Report 19/299 would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 27 November 2019 for scrutiny and comment as appropriate.

**530. RENT ARREARS UPDATE AND THE IMPACT OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT (UC)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/300) providing an overview of performance in relation to rent arrears and the impacts of Universal Credit (UC) twelve months on from the introduction of full service.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 19/300, including the analysis of rent arrears and the benchmarking performance, be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) to submit a further update to Committee for performance in 2019/20, in August 2020.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) to bring a further report to the next meeting on actions taken by the service to manage arrears and steps within current budgets or contained within the HRA budget for 2020/21 to mitigate the impact of universal credit.
- (iv) A briefing session to be arranged for all Councillors to provide more detail on this subject.

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C CRANMER LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

**531. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/301) seeking approval of the revised Perth and Kinross Council Strategic Housing Investment Plan for the period 2020 to 2024/25.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The revised Perth and Kinross Council Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2020/21 - 2024/25, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 19/301, be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) be authorised to ensure that where projects fall out of the plan, alternative projects prioritised in the same way can be substituted.

**532. ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT – SCOTTISH HOUSING REGULATOR**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/302) providing an overview of the new requirement for Perth and Kinross Council to submit an Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR).

**Resolved:**

- (i) The new Regulatory Framework and the requirement to submit an Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) be noted.
- (ii) The Annual Assurance Statement, as detailed in Appendix 2 to Report 19/301, be approved.

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