

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee held in the Council Chambers, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 9.30am.

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

In Attendance: B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment); C Mailer, J McColl, M Dow, E Ritchie, N Robson, G Conway, D McPhee and K Steven (all from Art. 247(ii)), 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, Chief Inspector M Gallagher and Constable K Wilkie (all Police Scotland); Area Manager G Pryde and Group Manager B McLintock (both Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); T Bremner (Tenants' Representative).

Councillor Barrett, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led the discussion for Arts. 242-244 and 248-251 and the Vice-Convener for Arts. 245-247 and 252-253.

242. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. There were no apologies.

243. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

244. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF 20 MARCH 2019 FOR APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE

The minute of the meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee of 20 March 2019 (Arts. 128-136) 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.

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.**

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

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had no operational update to report.

**246. POLICE SCOTLAND – OPERATIONAL UPDATE FROM PERTH AND
KINROSS**

The Committee received and noted a verbal update from Chief Inspector M Gallagher of Police Scotland “D” Division (Tayside) on information which was not to be made publically available.

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

CHIEF INSPECTOR GALLAGHER LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

247. POLICE AND FIRE REFORM: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

**(i) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Quarterly Performance Report –
1 January to 31 March 2019**

There was submitted a report by Area Manager G Pryde, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (19/141) 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 fourth quarter, 1 January to 31 March 2019.

Councillor Drysdale made reference to the fatal road traffic casualty figures and queried why these figures differ from those in the Police Scotland quarterly report. In response Area Manager Pryde explained that the only figures they report on are the incidents they attend.

Councillor Drysdale also made reference to the significant number of unwanted fire alarm signals emanating from schools / nursing homes and queried whether there were any figures available which detail how many of these properties are controlled or managed by the local authority. In response Group Manager McLintock advised that work has commenced with the Council on this issue but is still at a very early stage, but assured the Committee that work was ongoing to try and reduce these figures.

Councillor McCole made reference to the figures relating to deliberate secondary fires and queried whether the thirteen incidents in Q4 was typical for this quarter or whether it indicated a downward trend; she also questioned whether exceeding the annual target was as a result of

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a particular spike at a certain point during the year. In response Group Manager McIntock advised that there had been a decrease from quarter to quarter, the slight spike was the result of anti-social behaviour incidents involving youths, but he assured the Committee that work continues to be done with partners to tackle this issue.

Councillors Shiers made reference to the work done on risk management and preparedness in relation to wildfires, specifically controlled burning and queried what work has been done with sectors of the communities such as the Gamekeepers Association, NFU and other organisations / individuals who work in rural areas. In response Area Manager Pryde advised that SFRS are part of a Wildfire Forum which brings together a broad range of partners and allows them to work together on a number of education and preventative measures. He further advised that the SFRS has fire service specialists, who have been trained in Europe and are bringing back extensive knowledge on dealing with these types of incidents.

In response to a question from Councillor Coates in regards to the level of staff on duty at any time who are fully trained in all aspects of water safety and rescue, Group Manager McIntock confirmed that every member of staff at the Perth station has been fully trained and further advised there are twenty four teams across Scotland that can be called upon at any given time to also provide assistance during an emergency situation.

Resolved:

The performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in Perth and Kinross area for the fourth quarter, 1 January to 31 March 2019, as detailed in Report 19/141, be noted.

M DOW, J McCOLL, E RITCHIE, N ROBSON, G CONWAY, C HENDRY, D McPHEE AND K STEVEN ALL ENTERED THE MEETING DURING THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

(ii) Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area – Quarterly Performance Report – 1 January to 31 March 2019

Prior to Chief Inspector Scott providing the quarterly report, Constable K Wilkie provided the Committee with a presentation on all aspects of Road Policing and answered members' questions thereon.

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent A Todd, Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside) (19/142) 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 January – 31 March 2019.

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Councillor Brawn made reference to hate crimes carried out against people with disabilities and queried whether this was a new issue that is becoming prevalent. In response Chief Inspector Scott confirmed that these types of incidents are relatively infrequent.

Councillor Drysdale made reference to some recent vandalism made to life saving equipment on the river side near the North Muirton area, and also to the number of youths congregating near the water's edge and queried what message Police Scotland would like to put out to the community in this area. In response Chief Inspector Scott confirmed that the message would be to highlight the dangers and to promote water safety and work was ongoing with the Community Wardens Service, colleagues in SFRS and campaigners to do this. He further advised that any damaged signage or safety lines are replaced as soon as possible, with cycle patrols increasing in problem areas to try and encourage young people to behave responsibly and engage with Officers about the dangers.

Councillor McCole made reference to the issue of raising awareness in schools around safer internet use and sought some assurance that this included visiting secondary schools and that discussions within schools includes issues around consent and attitudes towards both men and women, particularly around access to pornography and what that depicts. In response Chief Superintendent Todd confirmed that he has asked his Inspectors across Tayside to identify best practice of his officers' engagements with schools. The aim is to improve the consistency of information provided to schools, to assess whether the schools are content with the message and if the message is getting across to the pupils.

Councillor Shiers made reference to the figures relating to the number of 'stop and searches' carried out and sought some clarification on the background to these figures and how we compared nationally. In response Chief Superintendent Todd advised that this is an ongoing issue for Police Scotland and is the subject of significant scrutiny from the Scottish Government and the Scottish Police Authority and also subject of an ongoing review which is due to report in the next two months to the Scottish Government. It is hoped that the outcome of this review will provide Police Scotland with an action plan around 'stop and searches'. He further advised that our detection rates are broadly consistent with the rest of Scotland.

Councillor Shiers asked whether there were any plans to have any road safety initiatives on the A85/A93 over the summer months particularly in relation to motorcycles similar to the initiative 'Operation Rossie' run last year. Councillor Shiers raised specific concerns with the ongoing duelling of the A9 which could potentially push tourist traffic onto these roads. In response Chief Inspector Scott confirmed that 'Operation Round the Bend', 'Operation Rossie' and Safe

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Motorcycling Campaigns are annual events for Police Scotland and Road Policing colleagues which commenced over the Easter weekend with additional patrols out on the roads. He advised locality policing plans in areas around Crieff and Blairgowrie are being reviewed and additional local patrols will be out to try and engage with groups when they stop to refuel to highlight the concerns of local communities and to advise of previous fatalities that have occurred on the roads.

Councillor Barrett made reference to the figures for theft by shoplifting highlighting that the number has reduced substantially and noting that when there was a previous spike in these figures officers were redeployed into the city centre to help address this, he queried whether any further improvement in these figures was likely and whether any collaborative working with city centre businesses had been pursued.

In response Chief Inspector Scott explained that with the setting up of dedicated community teams in each community across Perth and Kinross this has helped reduce the figures, he further advised that work would continue in repeat locations and advice would be offered to help businesses improve the security of their premises.

Resolved:

The performance of Police Scotland against the local policing priorities for the Perth and Kinross area as detailed in Report 19/142 be noted.

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

FOLLOWING A SHORT ADJOURNMENT THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED AT 11.15 AM.

248. HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019-20

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/133) presenting the first combined Housing and Environment Annual Performance Report for 2018/19 and Business Management Improvement 2019-20.

Resolved:

- (i) The combined Housing and Environment Annual Performance Report 2018/19 and Business Management Improvement Plan 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 19/133, and pertaining to this Committee's area of responsibility, be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 19/133 would also be submitted to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee later today for approval pertaining to that Committee's areas of responsibility;

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- (iii) It be noted that Report 19/133 would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 12 June 2019 for scrutiny and comment as appropriate.

249. ANNUAL UPDATE ON PERTH AND KINROSS LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2016-2021

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/143) (1) noting the progress in implementing the Local Housing Strategy for Perth and Kinross which was approved at Housing and Health Committee on 26 May 2016; and (2) seeking the approval of a revised action plan for 2019-2020.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress in implementing the actions set out in the Local Housing Strategy during 2018/19, attached as Appendix 1 to Report 19/143, be noted.
- (ii) The revised action plan, as outlined in Appendix 2 to Report 19/143, be approved.

250. SERVICE USER REVIEW AND EVALUATION TEAM – SCRUTINISING HOUSING SERVICES TENEMENT MANAGEMENT SCHEME

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/144) providing (1) an overview of the scrutiny activities undertaken by the Service User Review and Evaluation (SURE) Team in relation to landlord services delivered by Housing; and (2) details of their findings and recommendations in relation to their recent scrutiny of the Tenement Management Scheme and recommending the Committee endorse the improvement plan.

Resolved:

- (i) The key role played by the volunteers on the SURE Team in supporting the delivery of improved services and the report on the Tenant Participation Scheme as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 19/144, be acknowledged.
- (ii) The Action Plan agreed in partnership with the SURE Team as detailed in Appendix 2 to Report 19/144, be endorsed.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) be requested to submit a further update to Committee in August 2019 on the progress made with scrutiny activities within the Tenant and Resident Participation Strategy Annual Update.

251. PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATED STOPPING PLACES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/145) seeking approval to participate in a Negotiated Stopping Places pilot for Gypsy/Travellers which will inform future policy decisions relating to managing temporary encampments and to enable full consideration of a managed stopping sites process.

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Resolved:

- (i) The proposal to participate in the Negotiated Stopping Pilot from August 2019 for a period of six months, be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) be requested to submit a further update to a future Committee detailing the outcomes of the pilot and making recommendations for future provision.

D McPHEE AND K STEVEN BOTH LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

252. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer (19/146) providing an update on the activities of the Community Planning Partnership.

Resolved:

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

253. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER AND PARTICIPATION REQUESTS ANNUAL REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer (19/147) providing an update on Community Asset Transfers and Participation Requests for 2018/19 and setting out identified improvement actions for 2019/20.

Resolved:

The progress and Improvement Actions as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 19/147, be noted.

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