

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Community Safety Committee held in the Hay Room, First Floor, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Wednesday 20 May 2015 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors D Pover, E Maclachlan, H Anderson, R Brock, J Giacobazzi, G Laing, A MacLellan, A Munro, C Shiers, L Simpson, A Stewart, H Stewart and M Williamson.

In attendance: J Walker, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); D Fraser, C Hendry, J Irons, C Johnston, N Rodgeron (up to and including Art. 328) and M Notman (all Housing and Community Care); J Dixon (The Environment Service) up to and including Art. 329; Chief Superintendent E Smith, Chief Inspector I Scott (both Police Scotland); Local Senior Officer C Grieve and Group Manager R Middlemiss, (both Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); B Benson (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board); J Beresford (Scottish Police Authority); C Flynn and L Brown (both Chief Executive's Service).

Councillor Pover, Convener, Presiding.

323. WELCOME

The Convener welcomed Bob Benson from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board and John Beresford of the Scottish Police Authority to the meeting.

324. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

325. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Community Safety Committee of 4 March 2015 (Arts. 164-171) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

326. PERTH AND KINROSS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP

(i) Minute of Meeting of Community Safety and Environment Group of 21 November 2014

The minute of meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Group of 21 November 2014 was submitted and noted.

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(ii) Update Report from the Community Safety and Environment Group on 20 March 2015

There was submitted and noted a briefing report by the Depute Director (Housing and Community Care) (15/197) providing a summary of recent business considered by the Community Planning – Community Safety and Environment Group on 20 March 2015.

327. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE JOINT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/198) presenting the Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2015/16 and the Annual Performance Report 2014/15 for the Environment Service.

Resolved:

- (i) The Business Management and Improvement Plan 2015/16 and the Annual Performance Report 2014/15 for the Environment Service, pertaining to the Community Safety Committee's area of responsibility, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 15/198, be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 15/198 would also be considered by the Environment and Enterprise and Infrastructure Committees on 3 June 2015 and would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 17 June 2015 for scrutiny and comment as appropriate.

328. PERTH AND KINROSS RECONVICTION RATES – 2012/13

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (15/199) detailing the reconviction rates for Perth and Kinross for 2012-13, being the most recent years for which figures were available.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 15/199, be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) be instructed to bring forward a further report to committee in 12 months' time on the reconviction rates for 2013-14

329. OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADING STANDARDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TAYSIDE

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (15/200) detailing the outcome of the scoping exercise undertaken in Perth and Kinross Dundee City and Angus Councils to investigate the potential for sharing Environmental Health and Trading Standards services and advising of opportunities for other collaborative approaches to ensure resilience, public protection and cost minimisation.

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Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that the most appropriate approach to sharing Environmental Health and Trading Standards Services is through a combined Formal Partnership and information sharing arrangements.
- (ii) The development of sharing proposals by the Working Group, as detailed in section 5 of Appendix A to Report 15/200, be progressed.
- (iii) Fife Council be invited to become a partner in the development of the sharing arrangements.

**330. POLICE SCOTLAND AND SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE:
LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT**

(i) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Local Service Delivery – Fourth Quarter and Year End Performance Report

There was submitted a report by Area Manager Colin Grieve, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), (15/201) providing an update on the activity of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in local service delivery within the Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan for Perth and Kinross for the fourth quarter, January-March 2015.

In response to questions from Councillor Pover on: (1) Non Fire Emergencies where emergency medical response is provided by local fire crews, and (2) Fire Brigade's Union (FBU) concerns relating to the reduction in the number of staff employed by the SFRS, Area Manager Grieve reported that fire crews provided first aid/medical care to victims prior to the arrival of paramedics. Fire crews also responded to calls made out of core hours where the Scottish Ambulance Service is unable to make a quick response. This early intervention saved lives.

In relation to FBU concerns on staffing levels the Area Manager reported that recruitment of fire fighters was now coordinated across Scotland every 13 weeks. It was anticipated that fire fighter numbers would be back to previous levels within 4 to 5 months. The rationalisation of SFRS civilian staff had been undertaken to remove duplication of backroom functions. The Service had given a commitment to no compulsory redundancies. B Barbour of the SFRS Board added that the Retained Duty System is a pressure across Scotland and is a major concern for the SFRS and the SFRS Board.

Councillor Simpson noted the number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) continued to rise and enquired if the Service were considering other ways of dealing with this such as fining habitual offenders. The Area Manager reported that a new policy was introduced seven months ago resulting in a rationalised approach to UFAS across Scotland. Although consideration had been given to charging individuals for attending UFAS, the SFRS had felt that education and engagement with the responsible persons concerned would be a more effective way of dealing with this issue.

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Councillor A Stewart noted with concern that the increase in the number of deliberate fires in non-domestic properties were almost entirely due call-outs to HM Prison Perth. He requested more information on why this was happening. In response the Area Manager advised that the SFRS were currently working with Perth prison staff on fire safety measures such as sprinkler systems. Responsibilities which had formerly been undertaken by the Scottish Prison Inspectorate were now the responsibility of the SFRS. Group Manager Middlemiss added that some of the incidents had arisen in the short term due to the dynamics of the prisoners there at the time.

Councillor Munro welcomed the overall percentage increase in the number of operational personnel who demonstrated competencies in all risk critical core skills. Following recent changes to the training and employee development structure he sought an assurance that the Service was maintaining fire fighters key skills. In responding the Area Manager reported that fire fighter safety was a top priority for the Service. Dedicated resources were in place for Perth and Kinross and across the North of Scotland Division. He reported that the SFRS had retained its training centre in Perth and had provided a new training facility at Dundee Airport.

Following a request for an update on funding for the Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign from Councillor Shiers, Group Manager Middlemiss reported that the Safer Communities Team had identified future and alternative sources of funding. Eighty percent of the funding necessary to hold the 2015 event was now in place.

Councillor MacLellan referred to the slight increase in the number of deliberate fires and general vandalism in play parks in North Muirton, Perth. He commended the local Community Council, the Safer Communities Team, Police Scotland and the SFRS for their efforts and engagement with young people in the area which had led to an improvement in the position.

Resolved:

The performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service against the priorities contained in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth and Kinross for the fourth quarter and year end performance, as detailed in Appendix 1 to report 15/201, be noted.

**(ii) Police Scotland - Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area
Performance Results – 1 January to 31 March 2015**

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent Smith, Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside) (15/202) providing an update on the performance results for the Perth and Kinross policing area for the period 1 January to 31 March 2015 in relation to Crime Groupings 1 to 4.

Councillor Pover welcomed the reduction in Group 1 violent crimes and the reduction in the number of reported incidents of antisocial behaviour. He requested more detail on: (1) the increase in Group 2 indecency crimes, (2) the large reduction in detections for the consumption of alcohol in public

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places, and (3) the increase in shoplifting crimes and whether this could be attributed to drug and/or alcohol abuse.

In responding Chief Superintendent Smith advised that the figures reported for crimes of indecency were, in the main, historic. Victims now had more confidence in coming forward to report this type of crime and received support and guidance from a number of partner agencies.

Chief Inspector Scott reported that there had been a substantial increase in the figures reported for shoplifting from the previous year, however, the figures were still better than the 5 year average. Young males were susceptible to shoplifting as a means of funding their alcohol abuse and the manner in which some premises displayed their merchandise was also a contributing factor. The Chief Inspector reported that the issuing of fixed penalty notices, CCTV coverage, the high visibility of officers, engagement with licensed premises and positive stop and search were all having a positive impact in terms of the reduction in detections for the consumption of alcohol in public places.

In response to a question from Councillor Laing on positive Stop and Search, the Chief Superintendent advised that if a person was found to be in possession of an offensive weapon they would be arrested. If alcohol was found the person might receive a fixed penalty notice if a local byelaw was in force in the area. Police Scotland and the Scottish Government were currently considering how Police Scotland might improve its data and method of recording Stop and Search. Chief Inspector Scott added that less than 10% of positive stop and search would be for an offensive weapon.

In response to a request from Councillor H Stewart for an update on psychoactive substances, the Chief Superintendent reported that it was too early to say if any of the 5 classifications would be found in the paraphernalia of the 2 premises in Perth selling psychoactive substances. He advised that analysis of products took some time.

Councillor Giacomazzi noted the reduction in speeding figures and enquired if there was any specific reason for this. In response Chief Superintendent Smith reported that a more proportionate approach was being taken to speeding.

Councillor A Stewart welcomed the reduction in the number of complaints received for antisocial behaviour. He referred to a recent incident which had taken place within the Princes Street Hostel in Perth which had resulted in armed and riot police being in attendance and sections of the road being closed. This had proved to be distressing for local residents and he sought clarity from Police Scotland, and the Council, as to whether the response had been measured and appropriate and how such incidents would be tackled in future.

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The Chief Superintendent reported the deployment of armed officers must be proportionate and within the law. The decision was not taken lightly and was based on a rigorous assessment process. Should there be a threat to the life of an individual, the police, or the community, Tactical Fire Arm Command would take the decision to deploy, this would then be escalated to the Chief Superintendent to be ratified or rescinded, depending upon the intelligence provided. The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) added that Council staff at the hostel had acted in a professional manner and had done all that was asked of them at the time of the incident.

Councillor Shiers enquired what Police Scotland was doing to publicise Operation Zenith to the communities living along the A85 and A83. In response the Chief Superintendent advised that he would ensure that the Community Constable informed the local Community Council that the initiative was running over the spring and summer months. Details would also be disseminated through Community Watch.

Resolved:

The local policing area performance results for Perth and Kinross for the period 1 January to 31 March 2015, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 15/202, be noted.

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 SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973.

331. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT – OPERATIONAL UPDATE FOR PERTH AND KINROSS

The Committee received and noted a presentation by Group Manager Middlemiss of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on operational matters of interest in the Perth and Kinross area and which were not to be made publically available.

332. POLICE SCOTLAND – LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT – OPERATIONAL UPDATE FOR PERTH AND KINROSS

The Committee received and noted a verbal report from Chief Superintendent Smith, Police Scotland, “D” Division, Tayside, on operational matters of interest in the Perth and Kinross area which were not to be made publically available.

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