

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE  
4 MARCH 2015

## 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 4 March 2015 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors D Pover, H Anderson (substituting for Councillor E Maclachlan), R Brock, J Giacomazzi, T Gray (substituting for Councillor 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); J Gilruth, J Buchan, P Cargill, A Davidson, J Irons, K Heller and N Rodgeron (all Housing and Community Care); J Dixon (The Environment Service); Chief Superintendent E Smith, Chief Inspector M Whitford and Constable N Russell (all Police Scotland); Local Senior Officer Designate C Grieve and Group Manager R Middlemiss, (both Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); B Barbour (Scottish Police Authority); C Flynn and L Brown (both Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J Coburn, G Laing and E Maclachlan.

Councillor Pover, Convener, Presiding.

### 164. WELCOME

The Convener welcomed Mr Colin Grieve, Local Senior Officer (designate) Tayside of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to his first meeting of the Committee. Apologies for absence were noted as above.

### 165. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 166. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Community Safety Committee of 14 January 2015 (Arts. 11-22) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

### 167. DEVELOPMENT OF MENTORING SERVICES FOR ADULTS AT RISK OF OFFENCING WITHIN PERTH AND KINROSS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (15/105) highlighting the work undertaken by Tayside Council on Alcohol and the progress made in establishing a peer mentoring service in Perth and Kinross to support desistance from further offending and support offenders into more positive lifestyles.

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) The proposal to review the service provided by Tayside Council on Alcohol, as detailed in Report 15/105, be approved.

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- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) be instructed to submit a further report on the outcome of the review to the meeting of the Community Safety Committee on 28 October 2015.

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

- (i) **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Local Service Delivery – Quarterly Performance Report – 1 October to 31 December 2014**

There was submitted a report by Group Manager R Middlemiss, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, (15/106) 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 period 1 October to 31 December 2014.

In response to a question from Councillor Pover on the recruitment of retained firefighters in Perth and Kinross, Group Manager Middlemiss reported that the SFRS and Police Scotland had held a number of joint recruitment events in Highland Perthshire which had led to the successful identification of a number of potential candidates.

Councillor Munro welcomed the strong evidence of partnership working on Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) and Home Safety Visits (HSV) and enquired if an evaluation of performance would be undertaken. Group Manager Middlemiss confirmed this would be reported to a future meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Group.

Councillor Shiers asked for clarification on how funding of the Safe Drive Stay Alive road safety event would be sustained in future years. In responding Group Manager Middlemiss reported that partner agencies had given a commitment to continue to support these events, however, different ways of funding would be investigated.

Councillor A Stewart welcomed the decrease in the number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) but felt that the quarterly figure of 296 UFAS was still too high. Group Manager Middlemiss responded that around 30% of calls were to domestic premises, including Sheltered Housing. The alarms were activated largely as a result of cooking activities and this could result in fire affecting people at higher risk of harm, possibly due to their age and/or mobility issues. Councillor A Stewart asked how these difficulties were being managed in Council sheltered housing accommodation. In response the Depute Director (Housing and Community Care) reported that he would seek to hold discussions with the SFRS and Sheltered Housing Managers to identify what might be implemented collectively to improve the situation.

**Resolved:**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service quarterly performance report for Perth and Kinross for the period 1 October to 31 December 2014 as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 14/473, be noted.

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**(ii) Police Scotland - Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area Performance Results – 1 October to 31 December 2014**

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent Smith, Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside) (15/107) providing an update on the performance results and work which had taken place within the Perth and Kinross policing area for the period 1 October to 31 December 2014 in relation to: (1) serious and organised crime; (2) public protection and safety; (3) road safety; (4) antisocial behaviour; (5) major events and planning; (6) theft, housebreaking and scams, and (7) community engagement.

In response to a question from Councillor Pover the Chief Superintendent confirmed that Stop and Search in Perth and Kinross is intelligence led and targeted. The reduction in the number reported was comprised of consensual and legislative stop and search and over 25% of those conducted had been positive.

Councillor Pover asked if there was any reason for the increase in the number of robberies reported in comparison with the previous year. Chief Superintendent Smith advised that the figure was lower than the 5 year average and that detection rates remained high. A different method of accounting for robbery was now being used which was more robust in terms of Scottish recording standards.

In response to a request from Councillor A Stewart that more detail be provided in future reports to aid members' scrutiny and enquiry of local performance, the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) advised that further discussion would be undertaken with members to identify any gaps in the information provided.

In response to a question from Councillor Williamson on road traffic statistics, the Chief Superintendent reported that overall there had been a downward trend in serious injuries. Manpower resources had been targeted on the roads where they were needed most. Recent evidence had indicated that fewer people were exceeding the speed limit on Perth and Kinross roads.

In responding to a question from Councillor H Stewart regarding scams/bogus crime, the Chief Superintendent reported it was difficult to provide comparative data owing to the seasonal nature of bogus crime, however, recent detection rates had been good. An officer was employed at divisional level to track bogus crime activity across the division. The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) advised that the Council offered advice to vulnerable groups on how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud. In response to a further question from Councillor H Stewart, Chief Inspector Whitford reported Perth and Kinross had, on occasion, been targeted by shoplifting teams, however, the majority of these crimes were committed by local people.

In response to a question from Councillor Anderson, the Chief Inspector confirmed that geography did have a bearing on the variation in the housebreaking figures reported for the Perth City South and Strathearn council ward areas. Rural crime often occurred in isolated areas making it hard to prevent and investigate. In Highland Perthshire the Rural Watch website had been well received and was playing its part in raising awareness of rural crime and how to prevent it.

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Councillor Shiers noted the downward trend in the number of antisocial behaviour complaints reported. She enquired if this might be due, in part, to the under-reporting of incidents, particularly by vulnerable people residing in some housing estates. In response the Chief Superintendent advised that one of the benefits arising from the introduction of the new service delivery model was that officer visibility within the community had been raised. The excellent partnership work being undertaken within the Community Hub at St Martin's House, Perth was also having a positive effect.

**Resolved:**

The local policing area performance results for Perth and Kinross for the period 1 October to 31 December 2014, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 15/107, be noted.

**169. VALEDICTORY**

The Convener reported that Councillor Jack Coburn would shortly be retiring from the Council after serving as a local member for the Perth city centre ward for many years. On behalf of the Committee he thanked Councillor Coburn for the dedication and commitment he had given to the Committee in his role as Vice Convener and wished him well in his retirement.

**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.**

**170. 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.

**171. 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. The Committee also heard from Mr Brian Barbour of the Scottish Policy Authority Board.

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