

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
28 OCTOBER 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 28 October 2015 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors D Pover, E MacLachlan, H Anderson, B Band (substituting for G Laing) D Cuthbert (substituting for R Brock), J Giacobazzi, A MacLellan, A Munro, C Shiers, L Simpson, A Stewart, H Stewart and M Williamson.

In attendance: J Walker, Depute Chief Executive (Corporate and Community Development Services); J Gilruth, Director (Housing and Community Care); N Campbell, J Irons, C Johnston, M Notman and S Rankin (all Housing and Community Care); J Dixon (The Environment Service); Chief Superintendent E Smith, Chief Inspector I Scott and N Russell (Police Scotland); Local Senior Officer C Grieve and Group Manager R Middlemiss, A McCutcheon and F Scott (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); B Benson (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board member); F Miller, (Scottish Police Authority); C Flynn, L Gowans and C Irons (Corporate and Democratic Services).

Also in attendance: Councillor B Vaughan.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors R Brock and G Laing

Councillor Pover, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led discussion on Arts 676 – 679 and 684 –686 and the Vice-Convener led discussion on Arts 680 - 683.

676. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence and substitutions were noted as above.

677. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

678. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Community Safety Committee of 19 August 2015 (Arts. 504 -514) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

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**679. PERTH AND KINROSS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP –
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

**(i) Minute of Meeting of Community Safety and Environment Group
of 19 June 2015**

The minute of meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Group of 19 June 2015 was submitted and noted.

**(ii) Summary Report from Community Safety and Environment Group
Meeting of 21 August 2015**

There was submitted a report by the Director (Housing and Community Care) (15/445), informing the Committee of the recent reports presented to the Community Safety and Environment Group. It was also agreed the presentation given by B Atkinson to members on Drugs and Alcohol be given to a future meeting of this Committee.

**680. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE SUMMARY
2015**

There was submitted a report by the Director (Environment) (15/446), reviewing the performance of the Environment Service against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April to 30 September 2015.

In response to a question from Councillor L Simpson, J Dixon advised the Environment Service engaged with Royal Mail with regard to scam letters and True Call machines were used to gather information on where scam calls were received from and the information would be used to follow up matters.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the Environment Service six month Performance Summary 1 April to 30 September 2015, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 15/446, and pertaining to this Committee's area of responsibility, be accepted.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 15/446 would be considered by the Environment and Enterprise and Infrastructure Committees on 11 November 2015 and would be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committee on 2 December 2015.

**681. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CARE SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE
SUMMARY 2015**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Corporate and Community Development Services) (15/447), reviewing the performance of Housing and Community Care against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April to 30 September 2015.

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Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the Housing and Community Care six month Performance Summary 1 April to 30 September 2015, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 15/447, and pertaining to this Committee's area of responsibility, be accepted.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 15/447 would be considered by the Housing and Health Committee on 4 November 2015 and would be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committee on 2 December 2015.

682. SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Corporate and Community Development Services) (15/448), introducing Perth and Kinross Council's Safer Community Team annual performance report for 2014/15.

Motion (Councillors E Maclachlan and D Pover)

- (i) The report be endorsed.
- (ii) The Depute Chief Executive (Corporate and Community Development Services) be instructed to submit a report to this Committee in twelve months' time.

Amendment (Councillors A Stewart and C Shiers)

- (i) **The report be endorsed.**
- (ii) **The Safety Community Wardens and the Safety Community Team be congratulated in the work they are doing for the benefit of people in Perth and Kinross.**
- (iii) **The Depute Chief Executive (Corporate and Community Development Services) be instructed to submit a report to this Committee in twelve months time.**
- (iv) **The Leader of the Administration be requested to seek an urgent meeting with the Scottish Government Justice Minister to ensure additional resources are allocated to this Council for services that were apparently previously provided by the Police Service and the result of this meeting to be reported back to this committee.**

The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes, recommencing at 2.50pm.

In accordance with Standing Order 44, a roll call was taken.

Seven members voted for the Amendment as follows:-

Councillors D Cuthbert, A Maclellan, A Munro, C Shiers, L Simpson, A Stewart and H Stewart.

Six members voted for the Motion as follows:-

Councillors H Anderson, B Band, J Giacomazzi, E Maclachlan, D Pover and M Williamson.

Resolved

In accordance with the Amendment.

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683. REGULATORY SERVICES IN THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE 2014/15 PERFORMANCE

There was submitted a report by the Director (Environment) (15/449), highlighting the community safety work carried out by the Environment Service's Regulatory Services and setting out future priorities for the team.

Resolved:

The activities of the Environment Service and Regulatory Services in protecting communities within Perth and Kinross be endorsed.

J DIXON AND S RANKIN LEFT AT THIS POINT IN THE MEETING

684. POLICE AND FIRE REFORM: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

Prior to consideration of the following items, the Convener welcomed Bob Benson of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board and Fiona Miller, Scottish Police Authority to the meeting.

The Convener referred to a road traffic collision the previous weekend involving a Fire and Rescue Service vehicle resulting in the death of a car driver.

As the incident was under investigation it could not be discussed today, however, the Convener offered condolences to the family of the deceased and also wished the Fire personnel a speedy recovery.

The Convener also referred to a road traffic accident resulting in the death of a nine year old boy and offered condolences to the family, acknowledging the work of the Police in dealing with this difficult situation.

(i) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES – PERTH AND KINROSS – 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2015 INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT

There was submitted a report by Area Manager Colin Grieve, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, (15/450), providing the Committee with provisional performance information relating to the second quarter (July - September) of 2015/16 on the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in support of Member scrutiny of local service delivery.

Local Senior Officer C Grieve reported that due to an on-going campaign more Retained and Volunteer Firefighters had been recruited and support for them would be identified. Also, a review of training course provision had recently been undertaken with a new series of courses programmed for the remainder of 2015/16.

In response to a question from Councillor H Stewart, C Grieve confirmed the number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) had decreased with the introduction of a UFAS reduction policy and engagement with responsible persons at premises affected.

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Councillor L Simpson requested an update in respect of the flooding pilot scheme and Group Manager R Middlemiss referred to a partnership approach with Perth and Kinross Council and the Scottish Flood Forum in implementing Property Level Protection in Aberfeldy, Comrie, Crieff and Pitlochry. Over six hundred properties had been visited and approximately 60% of households had signed up to the scheme. Information had been forwarded to the Council to progress.

Following the serious flooding incidents in North Perthshire on 17 July 2015 it was intended the scheme would be extended to Bankfoot and Alyth. As the Flood Forum were providing support to those affected in these areas they would be undertaking visits to the properties.

Councillor L Simpson expressed concern that the take up was low and queried how many were Council properties and how many were private. R Middlemiss advised the information had been forwarded to the Environment Service and would be provided to Councillor Simpson outwith the meeting.

In response to a question from Councillor D Cuthbert on deliberate fire setting, C Grieve advised if the incidents were suspicious the Police would be involved.

I Scott confirmed a number of incidents were investigated and there was intervention with both the people responsible for the crime as well as the victims.

Councillor A Stewart recognised the rapid action of the fire crews in dealing with a fuel tanker on fire on the M90, acknowledging that there were no fatal injuries, however, the incident could have been catastrophic. C Grieve stated there could have been a huge impact with potential for serious disruption on a major arterial route but with rapid intervention from Perth and Newburgh fire crews and the involvement of Police Scotland the overall disruption was minimised.

Councillor A MacLellan referred to a fatal incident in his ward and requested an update on water safety.

R Middlemiss advised five phases of a Water Safety Improvement Plan had been addressed, one of which was in North Muirton. Also additional controls were put in place during the Rewind event at Scone following the fatal incident two years ago.

The majority of incidents were between the two bridges in Perth City Centre and often were incidents of self-harm leading to signage being erected on the bridges and this would be extended to other areas. In addition, there was Adventure Tourism within the area which could lead to incidents.

R Middlemiss concluded that there would be ongoing monitoring of the Improvement Plan.

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Councillor H Anderson advised that the deliberate fire setting at Kilgraston Mains Farm had caused £10,000 worth of damage and required two fire crews over twenty-four hours and thanked the Fire and Rescue Service for their efforts.

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 period 1 July to 30 September 2015, as detailed in Appendix 1 to report 15/450, be noted.

(ii) PERTH AND KINROSS LOCAL POLICING AREA INTERIM PERFORMANCE RESULTS 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent Eddie Smith, Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside), (15/451), updating the Committee on the performance of Police Scotland in the Perth and Kinross local area from 1 July to 30 September 2015. Additional figures were tabled proving updated information.

Chief Superintendent E Smith reported there had been a change to the classification of assaults and some injuries which had previously been common or minor assaults were now considered serious, resulting in an increase in numbers of serious assaults in comparison to the previous year.

Domestic Violence was noted as a local and national priority and work was being undertaken with Partnership agencies. Although there had been a reduction in incidents the Police wanted to ensure victims had the confidence to report abuse to them.

E Smith advised a breakdown of statistics was being prepared from T in the Park but from a crime perspective initial indications were that they were broadly similar to previous years.

Councillor J Giacomazzi queried why the report only included the detection rate for rape but did not include the actual number of rapes.

E Smith advised the information could be included in future reports.

In response to a question from Councillor M Williamson, I Scott advised the Domestic Abuse cases were not broken down between areas.

Councillor A Stewart referred to the results of a staff survey which highlighted low morale within Police Scotland. E Smith advised the survey results were being taken very seriously and a number of national events were planned and gave an assurance that improvements would be made.

Councillor H Stewart requested reassurance regarding the consumption of alcohol over the festive period in relation to assaults. E Smith

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advised the Drug and Alcohol Partnership were working to deal with issues and noted that it was not only alcohol leading to assaults but also drugs and new psychoactive substances.

There were plans to take matters forward through licenced premises and a meeting had taken place with the Council's Chief Executive on this. It was noted there were no reliable statistics on the correlation between alcohol and crime.

Councillor L Simpson suggested that intelligence could be gathered by Police on the beat and E Smith advised the number of Community Police Officers had increased and there were dividends from Community Policing.

I Scott added that community engagement had never been greater with the launch of the Community Watch and increased patrolling at the weekends.

Resolved:

- (i) The local policing area performance results for Perth and Kinross for the period 1 July to 30 September 2015, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 15/451, be noted.
- (ii) A report be submitted to a future committee meeting on Domestic Violence against men and women.

COUNCILLOR B BAND, A MCCUTCHEON AND L GOWANS LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

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.

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

The Committee received and noted a verbal report by Area Manager C Grieve, Local Senior Officer and Group Manager R Middlemiss, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on operational matters of interest in the Perth and Kinross area which were not to be made publically available.

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

The Committee received and noted a verbal report by Chief Superintendent E Smith and Chief Inspector I Scott, 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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