

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
21 AUGUST 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 21 August 2019 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors P Barrett, B Brawn, C Ahern, A Bailey (up to and including Art. 386(ii)), K Baird (substituting for C Shiers), H Coates, E Drysdale, T Gray, D Illingworth, S McCole, T McEwan, C Reid and R Watters.

In Attendance: B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment); C Mailer, D McPhee (from Art. 390(ii)), S Watson, J McColl (from Art. 390(ii)) and M Dow (all Housing and Environment); C Flynn, A Taylor and D Stokoe (from Art. 390(i)) (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Also in Attendance: Superintendent E Logue and Chief Inspector I Scott (both Police Scotland) (both up to and including Art. 390(ii)); Area Manager G Pryde and Group Manager B McLintock (both Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) (both up to and including Art. 390(ii)); and L Palmer (Tenants' Representative) (up to and including Art. 393).

Apologies: Councillor C Shiers.

Councillor Barrett, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led the discussion for Arts. 385-387, 390(ii) and 392-394 and the Vice-Convener for Art. 390(i).

385. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. An apology for absence and a substitute was noted as above.

386. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

387. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF 15 MAY 2019 FOR APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE

The minute of the meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee of 15 May 2019 (Arts. 242-253) 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.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
21 AUGUST 2019

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.

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

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

389. 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

390. POLICE AND FIRE REFORM: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

(i) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Quarterly Performance Report – 1 April to 30 June 2019

There was submitted a report by Area Manager G Pryde, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (19/222) 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 first quarter, 1 April to 30 June 2019.

Councillor Drysdale made reference to a recent fire at Menzies Court in Fairfield and queried the type of work being undertaken to try and improve fire safety in buildings of this type. In response Area Manager Pryde confirmed that a lot of collaborate work continues to be done with the Council's Housing department and other partners both locally and nationally to help identify how best to manage and address these types of incidents, he also made reference to improving guidance being issued from the Scottish Government around smoke detection requirements. Group Manager McLintock further commented that with an incident on this scale a multi-agency debrief will be undertaken to identify any lessons learned.

Councillor Barrett made reference to the dramatic reduction in unwanted fire alarm signals in school and educational premises and queried the cause for the reduction. In response Group Manager McLintock commented that work continues between Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland and t schools to highlight the dangers of making malicious calls, deliberate fire setting and general anti-social behaviour. He further commented that information leaflets are left with the owner of the property every time Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are called out to a unwanted fire alarm signal incident.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
21 AUGUST 2019

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 ARRIVED DURING THE ABOVE ITEM.

(ii) Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area – Quarterly Performance Report – 1 April to 30 June 2019

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent A Todd, Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside) (19/223) 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 April to 30 June 2019.

Councillor Drysdale made reference to the challenges to Police resources caused by the increasing number of honour based abuse reports and queried whether this was an area where collaboration with Perth and Kinross Council is important. In response Chief Inspector Scott commented this was the case and confirmed that although the numbers of incidents are relatively low the investigation required can be significant due to cultural and languages issues.

Councillor McCole made reference to the challenges faced regarding human trafficking issues and queried what can be done to improve the public's awareness of these issues. In response Chief Inspector Scott confirmed this was challenging but the increase in media / social media information released as and when these types of incidents arise is helping to raise public awareness on what to look out for. He asked partners, communities and elected members to raise any concerns they may have.

Councillor Brawn made reference to the number of violent assaults (being over 1600 nationally) carried out on Police Officers over the last year and queried how many of these apply to Perth and Kinross, he further queried what can be done to try and reduce these figures. In response Chief Inspector Scott confirmed the majority of assaults on officers are carried out when a person is being arrested. He further commented that the majority of these tend to be minor in nature.

Councillor Gray made reference to vehicle-activated signs and queried whether these signs actually are capable of holding a record of vehicle speeds over a period of time. In response Chief Inspector Scott confirmed that they are only capable of indicating an advisory speed to motorists, there is no camera provision which can record speeds.

Resolved:

The performance of Police Scotland against the local policing priorities for the Perth and Kinross area as detailed in Report 19/223 be noted.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
21 AUGUST 2019

D McPHEE AND J McCOLL BOTH ARRIVED DURING THE ABOVE ITEM.

COUNCILLOR A BAILEY, SUPERINTENDENT E LOGUE, CHIEF INSPECTOR I SCOTT, AREA MANAGER G PRYDE AND GROUP MANAGER B MCLINTOCK ALL LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

391. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Depute Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer (19/224) providing an update on progress with Community Planning priorities since the last update on 15 May 2019.

FOLLOWING A SHORT ADJOURNMENT THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED AT 11.02AM.

392. ANNUAL UPDATE ON PERTH AND KINROSS TENANT AND RESIDENT PARTICIPATION STRATEGY 2018-21

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/225) noting the progress in implementing the Tenant and Resident Participation Strategy for Perth and Kinross.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made during 2018/19 towards achieving the outcomes set out within the Tenant and Resident Participation Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to Report 19/225, be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) be requested to bring forward a further report in 12 months' time.

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

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/226) seeking approval for the revised Responsive Repairs Policy.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 19/226, be noted.
- (ii) The amendments to the responsive repairs policy as detailed in Appendix 1 of Report 19/226 be approved.

L PALMER LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

394. GYPSY/TRAVELLER STRATEGY 2018-21 – YEAR 1 PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/227) providing an update on progress for the first year of the Gypsy/Traveller Strategy 2018/21.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 19/227 be noted.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
21 AUGUST 2019

- (ii) It be agreed that Report 19/227 be shared with the Community Planning Partnership for their approval.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) be requested to bring a second annual update on the Strategy's progress to the Committee in August 2020.

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