

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE  
8 JUNE 2016

## **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 8 June 2016 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors D Pover, E Maclachlan, H Anderson, R Brock, J Giacomazzi, G Laing, A Livingstone (substituting for Councillor A Stewart), A MacLellan, C Shiers, L Simpson, H Stewart and M Williamson.

In attendance: B Atkinson, Director (Housing and Social Work), L Greig, J Irons, M Notman and N Rogerson (all Housing and Community Care); S Mackenzie and W Young (both the Environment Service); Area Commander M Pettigrew (Police Scotland); Area Manager C Grieve, LSO Perth and Kinross Area Division, Group Manager R Middlemiss, Group B Butterworth and Station Manager S Symon (all Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); B Benson, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board; S Richards, C Flynn and L Brown (all Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors A Munro and A Stewart.

Councillor Pover, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led discussion on Arts 436-439 and 443 and the Vice-Convener led discussion on Arts 440-442.

### **436. WELCOME**

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

### **437. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **438. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minute of the Meeting of the Community Safety Committee of 30 March 2016 (Arts. 264-273) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

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

#### **(i) Summary Report from Community Safety and Environment Group**

There was submitted a report by the Director (Housing and Social Work) (16/260), updating the Committee on the current partnership activity and the activity currently being developed within the remit of the Community Safety and Environment agendas.

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**Resolved:**

The Director (Housing and Social Work) be requested to submit a report on the funding arrangements for the Safe Drive Stay Alive road safety campaign to a future meeting of the Committee.

**440. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE – JOINT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Director (Environment) (16/238), presenting the Joint Business and Improvement Plan 2016/17 and the Annual Performance Report 2015/16 for the Environment Service.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2016/17 and Annual Performance Report 2015/16, pertaining to the Community Safety Committee's areas of responsibility, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 16/238, be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 16/238 was also considered by the Environment Committee and the Enterprise and infrastructure Committee on 1 June 2016 and would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 15 June 2016 for scrutiny and comment as appropriate.

**441. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CARE – JOINT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Director (Housing and Social Work) (16/232) (1) presenting the Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2016/17 and Annual Performance Report 2015/16; for Housing and Community Care; and (2) setting out the key priorities and improvements.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2016/17 and the Annual Performance Report 2015/16 for Housing and Community Care, pertaining to the Community Safety Committee's areas of responsibility, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 16/232, be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 16/232 was also considered by the Housing and Health Committee on 25 May 2016 and would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 15 June 2016 for scrutiny and comment as appropriate.

**442. PERTH AND KINROSS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16**

There was submitted a report by the Director (Housing and Social Work) (16/261) introducing the Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership Annual Report for 2015/16, and outlining its improvement actions.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The work being undertaken by the Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership as detailed in the Annual Report for 2014/15, as appended to Report 16/261 be noted.

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- (ii) The Director (Housing and Social Work) be instructed to bring forward a report regarding the activity and performance of the Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership in 12 months.

COUNCILLOR MACLELLAN LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

**443. POLICE AND FIRE REFORM: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT**

**(i) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Auditing Policy**

There was submitted a report by Area Manager C Grieve, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (16/262), providing information regarding a new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) auditing policy that had recently been implemented by the service.

**Resolved:**

The information regarding the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Houses in Multiple Occupation auditing policy as detailed in Report 16/262 be noted.

**(ii) Fire and Rescue Fourth Quarter and Year End Performance Report**

There was submitted a report by Area Manager C Grieve, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (16/263), detailing: (1) the performance results of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) against the priorities, performance indicators and targets contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth and Kinross for the fourth quarter, January to March 2016, and (2) the accumulative performance for the full year.

Councillor Pover noted that key performance indicator “Special Service – All” had seen a significant increase from the number of incidents typically attended during the reporting period and requested further information on: (1) what type of incidents constituted a special service, and (2) some context as to why there had been such an increase. In responding Area Manager Grieve advised that special services included flooding incidents and chemical spills. The number of significant flooding events was a factor in the increase in the number of incidents recorded. In response to an additional question from Councillor Anderson on the recording of incidents of flooding, Area Manager Grieve advised that flooding incidents would be identified separately within the incident profile chart in future performance reports.

In response to a question from Councillor Simpson on the age profile of firefighters and the number due to retire in the Perth and Kinross area, Area Manager Grieve advised that a national recruitment drive would take place in the summer of 2016. He gave an assurance that there is sufficient firefighter cover in the Perth and Kinross area. B Benson of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board added that the Board is sighted on the age profile across the organisation and of the number of firefighters who are due to retire

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over the next few years. He confirmed that succession planning is a key priority for the Board.

In responding to a further question from Councillor Simpson on unwanted false alarm signals (UFAS) Group Manager Butterworth outlined the UFAS policy and procedures which are applied to premises under the Fire (Scotland) Act. Officers monitored the activation of alarms in those premises and had the option to reduce the number of appliances which are sent to those premises identified as repeat UFAS. Officers worked with the owners/managers of the premises concerned on reducing the number of UFAS.

Councillor H Stewart noted that deliberate fire setting continued to be an issue at HM Prison Perth. In response Area Manager Grieve reported that the SFRS continued to work closely with colleagues in the Scottish Prison Service to reduce the number of incidents of deliberate fire setting within the Prison.

In responding to an enquiry from Councillor Shiers for an update on progress made in supporting communities to develop and maintain resilience plans, S MacKenzie advised that a report would be submitted to a future meeting providing the Committee with an update on progress.

Councillor Anderson referred to the recent flash flooding incident in Bridge of Earn and expressed his thanks to the emergency services for the assistance given to local residents.

**Resolved:**

The performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service against the priorities, performance indicators and targets contained in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth and Kinross for the fourth quarter and the full year performance, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 16/263, be noted.

**(iii) Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area Performance Results –  
1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016**

There was submitted a report by Divisional Commander Paul Anderson, Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside) (16/234), detailing: (1) the performance of Police Scotland against the priorities contained within the Local Policing Plan for the Perth and Kinross area for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

Councillor Pover enquired if there was any reason for the reduction in the number of detections for domestic bail offences and the reason for the increase in the number of serious assaults. In response Area Commander Pettigrew advised that the number of people offending whilst on bail has reduced as police officers visited perpetrators and victims within 24 hours of an initial charge. The increase in the number of serious assaults reported was due to a change in definition of recording.

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Councillor H Stewart noted with concern that there continued to be incidents of anti-social behaviour at St Catherine's Square in Perth. Area Commander Pettigrew reported that a holistic partnership approach was being taken to address the issue of anti-social behaviour in that area through the excellent work being undertaken via the Community Safety Hub. The Director (Housing and Social Work) confirmed that officers from the Council's Community Justice Team worked in partnership with colleagues from Police Scotland to address the problems being experienced there; however, the situation was difficult as officers were dealing individuals who led chaotic lives and who had complex needs.

Councillor Livingstone enquired what Police Scotland were doing to address the concerns of local retailers on the negative impact beggars were having in the city centre, in particular in the lane adjacent to the Canal Street Multi Storey Car Park where they were approaching visitors and asking for money. The Area Commander reported that although begging was not deemed to be an offence in law police officers undertook regular patrols to ensure a visible police presence in the area and encouraged beggars to move on. However, it was proving difficult to deter beggars from the area due to the number of people who stopped to make a donation.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Anderson regarding the figures recorded in Perth city centre for serious assault the Area Commander confirmed that they included incidents of serious assaults occurring in HM Prison Perth. Meetings were held on a monthly basis with colleagues from the prison and a great deal of preventative work was undertaken in an effort to reduce the number of incidents taking place. In response to a further question from Councillor Anderson, Area Commander Pettigrew advised that figures for serious assault were included within the city centre report as the prison was deemed part of the city centre community; however she agreed that serious assaults at the prison would be recorded separately in future performance reports.

**Resolved:**

The information regarding the performance of Police Scotland against the priorities contained within the Local Policing Plan for the Perth and Kinross area as detailed in Report 16/234, be noted.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM(S) IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973**

COUNCILLOR LIVINGSTONE LEFT THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM

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**444. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – LOCAL SCRUTINY AND  
ENGAGEMENT- OPERATIONAL UPDATE FOR PERTH AND KINROSS**

The Committee received and noted verbal reports from Local Senior Officer Grieve, Group Manager Middlemiss and Station Officer Symon of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on information which was not to be made publically available.

**445. POLICE SCOTLAND – LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT -  
OPERATIONAL UPDATE FOR PERTH AND KINROSS**

The Committee received and noted a verbal report from Area Commander Pettigrew of Police Scotland on information which was not to be made publically available.

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