

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 31 August 2016 at 10.00am.

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

In attendance: B Atkinson, Director (Housing and Social Work), C Cranmer, D Fraser, M Notman, N Rogerson and S Watson (all Housing and Community Care); R Lyle and S Mackenzie (both the Environment Service); Divisional Commander P Anderson, Area Commander M Pettigrew and Superintendent A Todd (all Police Scotland); Group Manager R Middlemiss and Station Manager S Wood (both Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); N Marchant (Scottish Police Authority Board); C Flynn and L Brown (both Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors A Munro; L Simpson and A Stewart.

Councillor Pover, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener introduced Arts 591-596 and 599. The Vice Convener introduced Arts 597 and 598.

591. WELCOME

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

592. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

593. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of the Meeting of the Community Safety Committee of 8 June 2016 (Arts. 436-445) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

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

(i) Minute of Meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Group

The minute of meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Group of 13 March 2016 was submitted and noted.

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(ii) Community Safety and Environment Group Briefing Paper

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director (Housing and Social Work) (16/363) updating the Committee on the current partnership activity within the remit of the Community Safety and Environment Group.

595. SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (Housing and Social Work) (16/364) introducing the Safer Communities Team Annual Performance Report for 2015/16 and highlighting a number of positive outcomes that have been achieved by the team for communities.

Resolved:

- (i) The Safer Communities Team Annual Performance Report 2015/16, as appended to Report 16/364, be endorsed;
- (ii) The Director (Housing and Social Work) be requested to bring a further report on the work of the Safer Communities Team to the Committee in 12 months' time.

596. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director (Environment) (16/365) providing an update on the emergency planning and community resilience activity being undertaken by Perth and Kinross Council, partner agencies and community resilience volunteers across the Perth and Kinross area.

597. PERTH AND KINROSS RECONVICTION RATES 2013-14

There was submitted a report by the Director (Housing and Social Work) (16/366) on the Scottish Government reconviction figures for Perth and Kinross for 2013-14, the most recent year for which figures are available. The report advised that overall Perth and Kinross was the sixth best performing local authority group for the reconviction rate and the seventh best performing local authority group for the average number of convictions per offender and that on each measure of reconviction Perth and Kinross was placed well below the Scottish average.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 16/366 and the Scottish Government statistical bulletin on Reconviction Rates in Scotland: 2013-14 Offender Cohort, attached at Appendix 1, be noted;
- (ii) The Director (Housing and Social Work) be instructed to bring forward a further report to the Community Safety Committee in 12 months' time on the reconviction figures for the 2014-15 cohort of offenders following publication by the Scottish Government.

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598. TAYSIDE/FIFE RESOURCE SHARING PARTNERSHIP

There was submitted a report by the Director (Environment) (16/367) seeking approval to sign a Memorandum of Understanding as part of a Resource Sharing Partnership within the fields of Environmental Health and Trading Standards within participating Local Authorities in Tayside and Fife to promote effective service delivery.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposed resource sharing potential as detailed in Report 16/367 be noted;
- (ii) The signing of the Tayside/Fife Resource Sharing Partnership Memorandum of Understanding attached as Appendix 1 to Report 1637 and the commencement of shared service arrangements, as required, be approved.

599. POLICE AND FIRE REFORM: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

- (i) **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Quarterly Performance Report – 1 April to 30 June 2016**

There was submitted a report by Local Senior Officer, C Grieve, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) (16/368), detailing the performance results of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service against the priorities, performance indicators and targets contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth and Kinross for the first quarter 1 April to 30 June 2016.

In noting that the performance scorecard contained several key indicators flagged in red, not only during the first quarter of 2016, but also against the 5 year average, Councillor Pover requested an update on any actions or initiatives being implemented to address these.

In responding Group Manager Middlemiss reported that the figures should be viewed against longer term trends. In the case of Priority 2, whilst there had been an increase in the number of accidental dwelling fires reported during the first quarter of 2016 over a sustained period the service had experienced the lowest number of dwelling fires on record. Joint Home Fire Safety Visits had proven to be an excellent preventative initiative targeted at those individuals within the community who were considered to be most at risk from fire in the home. Tayside is the only area in Scotland to target visits in this way. The Group Manager advised plans were also in hand to base a Safer Communities Warden at Perth Community Fire Station as a further enhancement to existing joint working arrangements.

Councillors H Anderson, A Cowan, E Maclachlan and H Stewart requested more information on deliberate fire setting, secondary fires and fires in tenement block stairwells as reported in Priorities 3,4 and 5. With regard to Priority 3 Group Manager Middlemiss reported the SFRS planned to review initiatives previously undertaken in collaboration with community wardens which had been successful in the past in relation to fires in common stairwells. In the case of Priority 4 Station Manager Wood reported that secondary fires/deliberate fire setting often took place over a short period of time and tended to be very localised. Officers from

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the SFRS, Police Scotland and Perth and Kinross Council continued to work in partnership on interventions. Examples included community safety wardens increasing the number of patrols in the area and working with fire-setters to prevent this challenging anti-social behaviour. In relation to Priority 5, accidental fires in non-domestic premises, Station Officer Wood reported that High/Very High risk premises identified during post-fire audits were asked to complete an action plan. Business owners were also offered support and guidance from SFRS Fire Safety Enforcement Officers.

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 first quarter of 2016, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 16/368, be noted.

COUNCILLOR A MACLELLAN JOINED THE MEETING DURING THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

COUNCILLOR M WILLIAMSON LEFT THE MEETING DURING THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

(ii) Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area Performance Results – 1 April to 30 June 2016

There was submitted a report by Divisional Commander Paul Anderson, Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside) (16/369), detailing 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 to 30 June 2016.

Councillor A Gaunt reported there was a perception within the business community that begging was on the increase in the Perth city centre acting as a deterrent to visitors. Particular concern had been expressed on the number of people begging in Ropemakers Close. She enquired what powers the police had to move beggars on and if the force had any strategy in place to help beggars desist from such behaviour.

In responding the Divisional Commander reported that unless a local authority had a by-law in place begging was not deemed to be an offence. However, should the begging become more aggressive it might be considered anti-social behaviour. Police Scotland was adopting a more holistic approach to the problem and was looking to tackle the social issues which led to people begging through joint initiatives with partner agencies. The Council's Safer Communities Team Leader added that his team engaged with beggars in an effort to understand their reason for taking to the streets and tried to encourage them down a more positive path.

Resolved:

The performance of Police Scotland against the priorities, performance indicators and targets contained in the Local Policing Plan for Perth and Kinross for the period 1 April to 30 June 2016, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 16/369, be noted.

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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

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

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

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

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

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