

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting held on
8 February 2023 at 10.00 am.

Present: Councillors Philip Saxton (Chair), Kenneth Bell, Ian Cochrane, Mark Dixon and Hugh Hunter.

Present
Remotely: Councillor Mary Kilpatrick.

Attending: J. Bradley, Director of Strategic Change and Communities; C. Caves, Head of Legal and Regulatory Services; K. Anderson, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning; L. Kerr, Co-ordinator (Destination, Promotion and Inclusive Participation); I. Meekin, Local Senior Officer – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Superintendent D. Frew, Ayrshire Division Partnerships – Police Scotland; Inspector J. Logan, Community Inspector - Police Scotland; P. Linton, General Manager - Quay Zone, C. Buchanan, Committee Services Officer; C. Griffiths, Committee Services Assistant and C. McCallum, Committee Services Assistant.

Attending
Remotely: L. Reid, Assistant Director of Strategic Change and Communities;

1. **Sederunt & Declarations of Interest**

The Chair called the Sederunt for the meeting and having called the roll, confirmed that that there were no declarations of interest by Members of the Panel in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The **minutes** of the meeting held on 21 September 2022 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. **Action Log and Work Programme**

There were no questions or comments by Members in relation to the Action Log or Work Programme ([issued](#)).

Decided: to note the Action Log and Work Programme.

4. Local Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue

There was submitted a **report** ([issued](#)) of 31 January 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing Members with information about the mid-year performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire.

The Local Senior Officer - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service provided the Panel with an overview of the report drawing attention to a number of indicators in relation to Fire and Rescue Services locally.

Questions were raised by Members in relation to: -

- (1) Appendix A of the report, at Paragraph 5.1, requesting assurances around the removal of the high reach cover vehicle being removed from Ayr Fire Station and redeployed to Kilmarnock Community Fire Station. The Local Senior Officer advised Members that the use of more advanced technical resources was being investigated through the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service delivery model and advised that the high reach vehicle was just one of many resources that can be utilised;
- (2) the immediate impact of the high reach vehicle being redeployed to Kilmarnock Community Fire Station. The Local Senior Officer noted that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service functioned on operational demand taking outreach into account, he explained that an operational response was always sent from the nearest Fire Station and that the demand for special resources was being explored;
- (3) the current number of high reach vehicles in Scotland at present and where the nearest high reach vehicle was located in relation to Ayr Fire Station, the Local Senior Officer stated that the closest high reach vehicle past Kilmarnock Community Fire Station was in the Paisley/Glasgow area or in Dumfries and that the number of high reach combined vehicles would reduce from 25 to 14 due to operational demand.
- (4) what kinds of advance technology would be used to better Fire and Rescue Services locally, the Local Senior Officer explained that he would arrange an awareness session for Elected Members to look at Fire and Rescue resources and terminology in greater detail;
- (5) with regards to emergency support in place if industrial action was to be taken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The Local Senior Officer highlighted that a number of in duty systems were in place and that sufficient business continuity plans were in place as well as on-call support, he also stated that the industrial action planning team were investigating what supports were required and making arrangements for this.

The Panel, having considered the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Local Performance report and expressed their disappointment in the removal of the high reach vehicle from Ayr Fire Station, gave feedback to the Local Senior Officer and;

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Saxton left the meeting at this point and Councillor Mark Dixon chaired the remainder of the meeting.

5. Local Performance Report: Police Scotland.

There was submitted a **report** ([issued](#)) of 25 January 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing Members with information about the quarter 3 performance of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire.

The Superintendent – Ayrshire Division Partnerships (Police Scotland) provided the Panel a verbal overview of the local performance report highlighting details of the Ayr relocation of Ayr Police Station and various crime statistics locally.

Questions were raised by Members in relation to: -

- (1) A loss of custody holding areas at the relocated Ayr Police Station (Newton House); The Superintendent explained that as part of the national custody system, there will be two custody holding areas in Ayrshire, one located in Kilmarnock and another in Saltcoats, he explained that there will be a loss of service provision to custody holding at the relocated Ayr Police Station;
- (2) Page 4 of the report related to 'Violence/Homicide' and 'Serious Crime', 6 of the victims were female, can a breakdown be provided relating to the number of male and female perpetrators. The Superintendent stated that he did not have this information presently however he would be happy to feedback the request to the Chief Superintendent Faroque Hussain.
- (3) how many of the complaints against police were rejected and how many were upheld? The Superintendent stated that he would collate the appropriate information and provide this via a written briefing to the Panel.
- (4) trauma informed policing, what changes and adaptations have been made to the way police conduct their business? The Superintendent highlighted that nationally wellbeing is included within policing terminology and public health approaches, he noted that a national strategic agreement had been a joint agreement with public health to take forward a trauma informed approach. Inspector Logan highlighted that locally officers are assessing vulnerability and risk and building relationships to support those who are most vulnerable and arranging intervention methods where required to achieve positive outcomes for all.
- (5) whether Police Scotland would consider recognising 'Young Carers Day' in some way. Inspector Logan stated that Police Scotland would welcome this and would be happy to organise plans to give recognition to young carers on this day.
- (6) Awareness of any telecoms providers who are investigating methods of preventing telephone scams, The Superintendent stated that he was not aware of any telecoms companies looking into this but said that he would take an action to investigate this and report back with any findings in relation to The Superintendent telecom companies scam and fraud prevention methods.

Having scrutinised the Local Performance Report, the Panel expressed their disappointment at the removal of the custody holding areas at the relocated Ayr Police Station (Newton House) ;gave feedback to the Local Senior officer and :

Decided: to note the quarter 3 performance report of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire and provide feedback to the Area Commander.

6. **Local Police Plan 2023-26.**

There was submitted a **report** ([issued](#)) of 31 January 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities inviting Members to consider the revised draft Local Police Plan 2023-26 (Appendix 1) and provide feedback on the local priorities identified in the document.

The Superintendent – Ayrshire Division Partnerships (Police Scotland) provided a summary of the report and discussed the proposals of the three-year local policing plans, drawing Members attention to the main priorities within the Local Police Plan and stated that in relation to earlier comments made by Members, he would take an action to add information related to engagement with young carers to the appendix entitled ‘Youth Engagement’.

Questions were raised by Members in relation to: -

- (1) the terminology within the report causing confusion contextually. The Superintendent highlighted that the wording used was in line with corporate terminology for the purpose of the report and that he would be happy to give this feedback to the Area Commander; and
- (2) the milestones listed on page 18 of the report in relation to Child Sexual abuse, will a record be kept that the service provided to victims was trauma informed? The Superintendent noted that all services should provide a trauma informed approach therefore removing the need for a trauma informed marker within record keeping systems.

Having scrutinised the performance of the Local Police Plan, the Panel

Decided:

- a) to note the contents of the revised draft Local Police Plan 2023-26 (Appendix 1); and
- b) to feedback views on the identified local priorities.

7. **The Quay Zone Performance Report.**

There was submitted a **report** ([issued](#)) of 31 January 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities to Partnerships Panel inviting Members to scrutinise the performance of The Quay Zone.

The Co-ordinator - Destination, Promotion and Inclusive Participation gave a verbal overview of the report and the General Manager of the Quay Zone provided Members with an overview of the facilities and services provided at the Quay Zone.

Questions were raised by Members in relation to: -

- (1) Appendix 1 of the report, Paragraph 3 entitled ‘Finance’ in relation to current assets, particularly the £87,215 restricted funds and why these funds are restricted. The General Manager – Quay Zone advised that in 2017 the Quay Zone received grant money for the construction and equipment of the building

therefore the accountant associated had labelled these funds as restricted for this purpose however this is an accountancy error as the restricted funds were spent around three years ago therefore there are no restricted funds at present;

Having scrutinised the performance of the Quay Zone, the Panel

Decided:

- a) to note the contents of the report; and
- b) to request that the accountant of the Quay Zone provides a detailed breakdown of their restricted funds.

The meeting ended at 12.37 p.m.