

**THE MORAY COUNCIL****MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE POLICE AND FIRE  
AND RESCUE SERVICES COMMITTEE****THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2013****COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN****PRESENT**

Councillors D Ross (Chairman), R Shepherd (Depute Chairman), G Alexander, G Leadbitter, M McConachie, G McDonald, E McGillivray and C Tuke.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillor Divers.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Chief Superintendent Mark McLaren, Superintendent Mark Cooper, Chief Inspector Willie Findlay, Chief Inspector Support Andrew Todd, all of Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Police Scotland, Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Ms Anna Rodgers, Station Manager, Elgin, all of Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the Head of Development Services, and Mrs Lissa Rowan, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the meeting.

Also in attendance as observers, Mr Brian Barbour, Scottish Police Authority and Ms Marieke Dwarshuis, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board.

**1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS**

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillor's Code of Conduct, the meeting noted that there were no declarations from group leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how members will vote on any item on the Agenda.

**2. EXEMPT INFORMATION**

The Meeting agreed, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, that the public and media representatives be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the Items of Business appearing at the relevant paragraphs of this Minute as specified below so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the appropriate paragraph of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Para No. of Minute      Para No. of Schedule 7A

12

14

### 3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

There were no written questions.

### 4. OPERATIONAL UPDATE (VERBAL) – FIRE

The Committee noted an informative update on operational matters from Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer and Ms Anna Rodgers, Station Manager, Elgin, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

The Committee joined the Chair in thanking Mr Rae Cameron, Group Manager Aberdeenshire & Moray, SFRS for his contribution to the Community Planning Board and wished him well in his new employment.

During discussion regarding Home Fire Safety, clarification was sought as to how members of the public could receive a free residential fire safety check. In response Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer advised that he would circulate the contact information required in order to arrange a free residential fire safety check, to Members of this Committee following the Meeting.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) the verbal operational update in relation to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;
- (ii) that Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer would convey the thanks of the Committee to Rae Cameron, Group Manager Aberdeenshire & Moray, SFRS for his contribution to the Community Planning Board and wished him well in his new employment; and
- (iii) that Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, would circulate the contact information required in order to arrange a free residential fire safety check, to Members of this Committee following the Meeting.

### 5. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN TEMPLATE

There was submitted a report by Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire and Moray, SFRS advising the Committee of the new draft SFRS Local Fire and Rescue Plan template.

During discussion regarding the priorities, actions and outcomes in the Local Fire Plan, clarification was sought as to why there was no mention of road casualties, as this was an issue in Moray. In response, Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer advised that road casualties were included in the section entitled Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies. The Committee agreed that this should be amplified in the Local Fire Plan and Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer agreed to take this forward.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- (i) agreed to note the introduction of the SFRS Local Fire and Rescue Plan template as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;

- (ii) approved the future changes to Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan in line with the new format via local consultation and engagement; and
- (iii) agreed to note that Mr D Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire & Moray, SFRS would provide clarification in the Local Fire Plan that road casualties are included in the priority “reduction in casualties from non fire emergencies” as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report, as this was not clear from the list of priorities, actions and outcomes.

## **6. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – STRATEGIC INTENT**

There was submitted a report by David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire and Moray, SFRS informing the Committee of the SFRS’s strategic intent in relation to the property estate requirements for specified support functions.

During discussion regarding which Control Rooms should be retained following the SFRS Board’s review of the property requirements, the Committee agreed that one Control Room should be retained in the North of Scotland. It was therefore agreed that the Leader of the Moray Council be asked to highlight in his letter of response to the SFRS Board, that the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee would prefer that a Control Room remain in either Aberdeen or Inverness.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service report on the strategic intent in relation to the property estate requirements for specified support functions and any implications this may have for Moray; and
- (ii) that the Leader of the Moray Council be asked to highlight in his letter of response to the SFRS Board that the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee would prefer that a Control Room remain in either Aberdeen or Inverness.

## **7. POLICE PERFORMANCE**

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent Mark McLaren, Divisional Police Commander, Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Police Scotland informing the Committee of the performance of Police in respect of the Local Policing Plan 2013-2014, and other key indicators.

During discussion clarification was sought as to when the 0845 non emergency telephone number would no longer be active and telephone number 101 would have to be used. In response Chief Superintendent McLaren advised that he would circulate this information to Committee following the Meeting.

During further discussion surrounding complaints received in relation to the Police, the Committee accepted an invitation from Chief Superintendent McLaren to visit the local Professional Standards Department and meet with senior officers from there, along with senior officers from Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, in order to gain a better local understanding of the issues surrounding complaints against the police in

Moray. It was also agreed that Members could visit the Force Control Room on the same day.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) the performance outlined in the report;
- (ii) that Chief Superintendent McLaren would advise the Committee when the 0845 non emergency telephone number would no longer be active and telephone number 101 would have to be used; and
- (iii) that Members are invited to visit the local Professional Standards Department in order to gain a better local understanding of the issues surrounding complaints against the police in Moray and also visit the Force Control Room, on a day to be agreed following the Meeting.

## **8. FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE**

There was submitted and noted a report by David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire and Moray, SFRS informing the Committee of the performance of the SFRS locally, applicable to quarter 2 performance for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, in respect of the Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2013-2014, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

## **9. PUBLIC COUNTER SERVICE REVIEW**

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent Mark McLaren, Divisional Police Commander, Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Police Scotland informing the Committee of the current status of the Police Scotland Public Counter Service Review as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

During discussion, concern was raised as to who would be responsible for the administrative duties previously carried out by staff on the public counter. In response Chief Superintendent McLaren advised that tasks would be prioritised, processes streamlined and there would a corporate admin support team available to carry out the administrative tasks previously completed by staff on the public counter.

During further discussion, concern was raised as to whether the closure of public counters would inevitably lead to the closure of police stations and it was therefore agreed that the Head of Development Services would draft a response on behalf of the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee, prior to the close of the consultation process on public counter provision, highlighting the Committee's concerns regarding who would be responsible for the administrative duties previously carried out by personnel on the public counter and seeking clarification as to whether a reduction in the public counter service could potentially result in the closure of police stations.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) the contents of the report; and

- (ii) that a letter from this Committee be drafted, circulated to Members of this Committee and if in agreement, submitted to Police Scotland, highlighting the Committee's concerns regarding who would be responsible for the administrative duties previously carried out by personnel on the public counter and seeking clarification as to whether a reduction in the public counter service could potentially result in the closure of police stations.

## **10. TRAFFIC WARDEN PROVISION**

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent Mark McLaren, Divisional Police Commander, Aberdeenshire and Moray, Police Scotland informing the Committee of the current status of the Police Scotland review of parking enforcement and traffic warden provision.

During discussion concern was raised at the lack of consultation between Police Scotland and The Moray Council regarding the withdrawal of traffic wardens and clarification was sought as to whether Police Scotland could offer any support in the 18 month interim period whilst the decriminalisation of parking offences process takes place. In response Chief Superintendent McLaren advised that this had been a Corporate decision and that police officers would continue to deal with parking offences of a more serious nature.

Thereafter the Committee agreed that a letter be sent to Police Scotland expressing concern at the lack of consultation, the problems envisaged and seeking guidance as to how to manage the 18 month interim period whilst the decriminalisation of parking offences process takes place.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note:

- (i) the contents of the report; and
- (ii) that a letter from this Committee be drafted, circulated to Members of this Committee and if in agreement, submitted to Police Scotland stating that the Police and Fire & Rescue Committee are disappointed with the lack of consultation with regard to traffic warden provision in Moray, highlighting the problems envisaged and seeking suggestions as to how the interim period is managed whilst the decriminalisation of parking offences process takes place.

## **11. QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions raised.

## **12. NOTE OF THANKS**

The Committee joined the Chair in thanking the Board Members from both the Police and Fire Board for attending the meeting and thanked Mr D Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire & Moray, SFRS for arranging the visit to the training centre in Portlethen, which Members found very informative.

**13. OPERATIONAL UPDATE (VERBAL) – POLICE (PARA 14)**

The Committee noted an informative update on operational matters from Superintendent Mark Cooper and Chief Inspector Willie Findlay, Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Police Scotland and the responses to the relevant questions thereafter.