

THE MORAY COUNCIL**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE POLICE AND FIRE
AND RESCUE SERVICES COMMITTEE****THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2014****COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN****PRESENT**

Councillors D Ross (Chairman), R Shepherd (Depute Chairman) (items 1-8), G Alexander, G Leadbitter, M McConachie, G McDonald, E McGillivray and C Tuke.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor J Divers.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Superintendent Mark McLaren, Superintendent Mark Cooper, Chief Inspector Willie Findlay (items 1-12), Chief Inspector Andrew Todd, all of Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Police Scotland, Ms Morag McLaughlin, Board Member, Scottish Police Authority, Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Mr John Morgan, Group Manager, 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 an observer, Mr Brian Barbour, Scottish Police Authority.

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.

<u>Para No. of Minute</u>	<u>Para No. of Schedule 7A</u>
14	14

3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Committee noted that there were no written questions.

4. OPERATIONAL UPDATE– FIRE

The Committee noted an informative oral update on operational matters from Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer and Mr John Morgan, Group Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and the responses to the relevant questions thereafter.

5. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – MORAY LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE 2014-17 CONSULTATION

There was submitted a report and a presentation given by Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire and Moray, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service advising the Committee of the consultation on the draft Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17.

Following the presentation, the Chair acknowledged the need to respond to the consultation prior to the implementation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Moray Local Plan on 1 April 2014 and sought the Committee's agreement that a special meeting of the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee be arranged prior to 1 April 2014 to enable a response to the consultation. This was agreed.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the presentation on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Draft Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17; and
- (ii) that a special meeting of the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee be arranged to enable a response to the consultation on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17, prior to 1 April 2014.

6. CONSULTATION ON MORAY LOCAL POLICING PLAN

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent Mark McLaren, Divisional Police Commander, Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Police Scotland informing the Committee of the proposed priorities and other key indicators for inclusion in the Local Policing Plan 2014 – 2017.

During discussion, the Chair sought clarification as to whether the Local Police Plan 2014-2017 could include reference to the unauthorised encampment of gypsy travellers. In response, Chief Superintendent McLaren advised that this would be

classed as antisocial behaviour and agreed to make specific mention of unauthorised encampment of gypsy travellers in the antisocial behaviour section of the Local Policing Plan 2014-2017.

The Chair further acknowledged the need to respond to the consultation on the Local Policing Plan prior to its implementation on 1 April 2014 and suggested that it be referred to the previously agreed special meeting of the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee, prior to 1 April 2014 to enable a response to the consultation. This was agreed.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the proposed priorities for inclusion in the Local Policing Plan 2014 – 2017, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) that specific mention of unauthorised encampment of gypsy travellers would feature in the antisocial behaviour section of the Local Policing Plan 2014-2017; and
- (iii) that consideration of a response to the consultation be referred to the previously agreed special meeting of the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee that is to be arranged prior to 1 April 2014 in order to meet the deadline for responses to be submitted.

7. PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR POLICE CONTACT, COMMAND AND CONTROL SERVICES

There was submitted and noted a report by Chief Superintendent Mark McLaren, Divisional Police Commander, Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Police Scotland informing the Committee of the proposed strategic direction regarding the future arrangements for Police Control Rooms and Service Centres, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

The proposal, which was agreed at a meeting of the Scottish Police Authority Board on 30 January 2014, proposed that Police Scotland would move to a future operating model based at West Command Area Control – Govan and Motherwell combined Area Control Room, East Command Area Control – Bilston Glen Area Control Room, North Command Area Control – Dundee Area Control Room, National Command Base – Inverness Area Control Room and National Virtual Service Centre – Sites at Govan, Motherwell and Bilston Glen, and that this change would improve service levels to the public, enhance operational response and realise efficiencies.

8. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – STRATEGIC INTENT (UPDATE)

There was submitted a report by Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire and Moray, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing the Committee with an update on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's strategic intent in relation to the property estate requirements for specified support functions, namely Control Rooms, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

During discussion it was noted that at a recent meeting of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board on 30 January 2014, it was agreed that the location of the Control Rooms would be Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh and it was considered that this option would provide increased capacity which could be included in any future shared partnership initiatives and create an opportunity to maximise the return on investment and therefore demonstrate a key principle of best value.

Thereafter the Committee noted the report.

9. FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE

There was submitted a report by Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire and Moray, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service informing the Committee of the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) locally in respect of the Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2013-2014, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

During discussion, Mr Rout, LSO highlighted to the meeting that the report illustrated a 132% increase in the uptake of home fire safety visits for Aberdeenshire and Moray compared with previous years and thanked the Committee for promoting home fire safety visits in Moray.

Thereafter the Committee noted the report.

10. 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 Local Policing Plan 2013-2014, and other key indicators.

During discussion surrounding road safety and road crime, clarification was sought as to whether statistics detailing the number of parking tickets issued by police officers could be included as a key performance indicator in the Road Safety and Road Crime section of future performance reports. In response, Chief Superintendent McLaren agreed to this request.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note performance as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) that the Local Commander will continue to report to the Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives; and
- (iii) that statistics detailing the number of parking tickets issued by police officers will be included as a key performance indicator in the Road Safety and Road Crime section of future performance reports.

11. CONSULTATION ON THE USE OF STOP AND SEARCH BY POLICE SCOTLAND

There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director (Environmental Services) asking the Committee to provide a response to the consultation issued by the Scottish Police Authority on the use of stop and search powers by Police Scotland.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) the response to the Scottish Police Authorities consultation on the use of stop and search powers by Police Scotland as set out at paragraph 3.7 of the report with a revision of the final response being “The application of stop and search powers by Police Scotland within Moray have not given rise to any concerns and any individual who has nothing to hide should have no issue with being stopped; and
- (ii) to the Committee’s response being published by the Scottish Police Authority.

12. UPDATE ON THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

Chief Inspector Findlay left the Meeting during discussion of this item.

On the invitation of the Chairman, Ms Morag McLaughlin presented to the Meeting an update on the aims and objectives of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). At the conclusion of her presentation she responded to Members’ questions.

During discussion, concern was raised at the lack of consultation on recent decisions taken by the SPA, in particular with regard to the removal of traffic warden provision in Moray and the closure of front offices and control centres.

In response, Ms McLaughlin advised that it was the desire of the SPA to be as open and transparent as possible and that she would take the concerns of the Committee back to the SPA. This was noted.

Thereafter the Committee joined the Chair in thanking Ms Morag McLaughlin, for her very informative update and expressed their appreciation with regard to the input received from the SPA.

13. QUESTION TIME

Councillor McConachie sought clarification regarding a recent incident where a farm house situated at the top of a hill had caught fire and the situation was exacerbated as there was no water supply nearby and queried as to whether the Planning Department should consider water supply or a sprinkler system, when issuing planning permission.

In response, Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire and Moray advised that the supply of water in relation to the situation of houses was a planning matter however he would endorse the use of sprinkler systems as an effective means of controlling fire.

The Chair sought clarification as to Police Scotland's approach to "legal highs" and whether Officers had to undertake specific training in order to deal with individuals under the influence of legal highs.

In response, Superintendent Mark Cooper advised that legal highs feature on the agenda of the Alcohol and Drug Partnership and that all officers undertake officer safety training which takes into consideration how people react differently when under the influence.

14. OPERATIONAL UPDATE – POLICE (PARA 14)

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