

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE POLICE AND FIRE
AND RESCUE SERVICES COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 8 MAY 2014
COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors D Ross (Chairman), G Alexander, J Divers, G Leadbitter, M McConachie, G McDonald, E McGillivray and C Tuke.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor R Shepherd.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

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 resolved that in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, 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 paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

<u>Paragraph No. of Minute</u>	<u>Paragraph No. of Schedule 7A</u>
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3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Committee noted that there were no written questions.

4. OPERATIONAL UPDATE– FIRE

Mr David Rout Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) provided The Committee with an informative brief oral update surrounding the fire and explosion at a Sawmill in Forres and advised that 3 fire fighters had been injured. He further advised that the Health and Safety investigation was ongoing and Health and Safety Executive has primacy for this and thanked Police Scotland for their compassionate support at the scene and further thanked the Chair for his concern.

In response, the Chair asked Mr Rout to pass on the best wishes of the Committee to those injured in the incident and thanked Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services for the assistance they had provided.

Thereafter Ms Anna Rogers, Station Manager, SFRS provided an informative oral update on operational matters which was noted by the Committee.

5. POLICE PERFORMANCE

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent Mark McLaren, Divisional Police Commander, Aberdeenshire & Moray Division, Police Scotland informing the Committee of the performance of the Police in respect of the Local Policing Plan 2013-2014 and other key indicators. The Committee was also asked to agree the proposed performance reporting document as set out at Appendix 2 of the report.

During discussion, concern was raised with regard to the increase in response time which had been 13:59 minutes in 2012/13 and had increased to 16:35 minutes in 2013/14.

In response, Chief Superintendent McLaren advised that this would be investigated and the outcome circulated to Members of the Committee.

During further discussion regarding the domestic crime statistics detailed in the performance report, clarification was sought as to how many were domestic assaults and how many were domestic disturbances.

In response, Chief Superintendent McLaren advised that a breakdown of domestic crimes to identify how many were assaults and how many were disturbances would be circulated to Members of the Committee.

With regard to the proposed performance reporting document, the Chair sought the agreement of the Committee to include the number of licensed premises charged with serving alcohol to people who are drunk to the document. This was agreed.

The Committee further discussed public drinking in areas of Moray where there is a bylaw in place and agreed that the number of instances of people reported for street drinking where there is a bylaw in place also be included in the performance reporting document.

In response, Chief Superintendent McLaren advised that the proposed performance reporting document would include statistics regarding the number of licensed premises charged with serving alcohol to people who are drunk, and the number of instances of people reported for street drinking where there is a bylaw in place.

In response to a query regarding the availability of statistics from previous years to enable the Committee to effectively scrutinise year to year, Superintendent McLaren advised that future performance reports would include previous years statistics, if available, to enable year to year comparison.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note performance outlined in the report;
- (ii) to note that the Local Commander will continue to report to the Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives as articulated in the 2014-17 Local Policing Plan;
- (iii) that the reason as to why there was such a significant increase in response times when compared with last year, be investigated and the outcome circulated to Members of the Committee;
- (iv) that a breakdown of domestic crimes to identify how many were assaults and how many were disturbances, be circulated to Members of the Committee;
- (v) the proposed performance reporting document subject to the addition of the number of licensed premises charged with serving alcohol to people who are drunk, and the number of instances of people reported for street drinking where there is a bylaw in place, being included in the statistics; and
- (vi) that future performance reports would include statistics from previous years, if available, to enable year to year comparison.

6. FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE

There was submitted a report by Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire & 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.

During discussion, clarification was sought with regard to the population of Moray which was detailed on the front of the SFRS Ward Performance Report as it stated a

population of 87260 and it was the consensus of the Committee that according to a recent census the population was estimated at 92750.

In response, Mr Rout advised that that the correct population of Moray will be detailed in future Moray Ward Analysis reports received from the SFRS.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note:

- (i) performance outlined in the report applicable to annual performance for 1 April, 2013 to 31 March, 2014 including Q4 information; and
- (ii) that the correct population of Moray will be detailed in future Moray Ward Analysis reports received from the SFRS.

7. QUESTION TIME

Councillor McDonald requested an update with regard to the recruitment for retained firefighters.

In response, Mr David Rout, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services advised that there had recently been a national recruitment campaign for wholetime firefighters and that local recruitment for retained duty firefighters is an on-going process.

Councillor McDonald further asked if there was a full complement of retained fire fighters in Moray.

In response, Mr David Rout, SFRS advised that Moray as a whole was not fully resourced with some gaps in the establishment of some retained stations however Elgin had a full complement of wholetime and retained fire fighters.

8. 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.