

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE POLICE AND FIRE
AND RESCUE SERVICES COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2014

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors R Shepherd (Deputy 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 D Ross.

IN ATTENDANCE

Superintendent Mark Cooper, Chief Inspector Willie Findlay, Chief Inspector John McCluskey, Assistant Chief Constable Campbell Thomson and Superintendent Philip McRae, all of Police Scotland (Aberdeenshire and Moray Division), Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Ms Anna Rogers, Station Manager, Moray Command, Group Manager John Morgan, Group Manager David Meldrum and Ms Marieke Dwarshuis, Board Member, 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.

3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Committee noted that there were no written questions.

4. OPERATIONAL UPDATE– SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

On the invitation of the Chair, Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) introduced Ms Marieke Dwarshuis, SFRS Board Member who provided the Committee with a presentation on national activity with regard to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and thereafter Mr Rout provided the Committee with an update on operational activity within Moray.

The Committee joined the Chair in thanking Ms Dwarshuis for her interesting presentation and thereafter agreed to note the informative national update and the verbal operational update in relation to the Moray division of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

5. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – MORAY MULTI MEMBER WARD PLAN

There was submitted a report by Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) requesting that the Committee endorse the introduction of Local Multi Member Ward Plans for the Moray area.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed the introduction of Local Multi Member Ward Plans for the Moray area, an example of which was set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

6. FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE

There was submitted a report by Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) informing the Committee of the performance outlined in the report applicable to annual performance for 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014.

Following consideration, the Committee welcomed the excellent performance report and commended officers for the part they had played in achieving this good performance and thereafter agreed to note the performance outlined in the report applicable to annual performance for 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014 as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

7. POLICE PERFORMANCE

There was submitted a report by the Divisional Police Commander, Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Police Scotland informing the Committee of the performance of the Police in respect of the Local Policing Plan 2014-2017 and other key indicators.

Following consideration, the Committee welcomed the excellent performance report and commended officers for the part they had played in achieving this good performance and thereafter agreed to note:

- (i) the performance as set out in Appendix 1 of the report ; and
- (ii) 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.

8. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE, MORAY RESOURCES

There was submitted and noted a report and a short presentation by Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire and Moray, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing the Committee with an overview of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Moray resources (operational station based staff). The report stated that, of the 130 WTE retained fire fighter posts in Moray, 124 were filled, leaving a short fall of only 6 which suggested that Moray was in a good position with regard to retained fire fighters. Mr Rout assured the Committee that he was in a position to deploy resources where required to ensure adequate cover at all times.

9. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Shepherd sought an update with regard to recent media coverage relating to police officers carrying guns and requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee with regard to this matter.

In response, Supt Cooper agreed to provide a report on police officers who carry firearms to the next meeting of this Committee and advised Members that only officers deployed on Armed Response Vehicles (ARV) carried firearms. Within Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray, there are 2 vehicles that routinely patrol. The arming profile is at the discretion of Chief Constable and is based on risk. There are armed officers within these vehicles however, as a result of the new protocol, their hand guns are now at their side whereas before they were in a box at the back of the vehicle.

Supt Cooper further advised that he is a Tactical Firearms Commander and that he works alongside a Strategic Fire Arms Commander to provide an appropriate response to incidents and advised that, with the new protocol, he was more confident in Police Scotland's ability to respond to any ongoing risk now than he was when the previous arrangements were in place. Previously, if there was a need to arm officers out on patrol, they had to stop at a discreet location and arm up which took around 20 minutes. With the new protocol, if there is an immediate risk, they are able to respond immediately.

Staff do however still require to be briefed with regard to the threat they may face.

Supt Cooper advised that the ARV does not routinely patrol the streets of Moray and Aberdeenshire however mainly concentrates on areas of higher risk in Aberdeen such as Aberdeen Airport.

This was noted.

10. OPERATIONAL UPDATE – POLICE (PARA 14)

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