

THE MORAY COUNCIL**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE POLICE AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES
COMMITTEE****THURSDAY 7 MAY 2015****COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN****PRESENT**

Councillors R Shepherd (Chair), E McGillivray (Depute Chair), G Alexander, J Divers, M McConachie, D Ross and C Tuke.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors G Leadbitter and G McDonald.

IN ATTENDANCE

Superintendent Kate Stephen, Chief Inspector Willie Findlay, Chief Inspector Andrew Todd all of Police Scotland (Aberdeenshire and Moray Division), Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Mr David Meldrum, Group Manager, Ms Anna Rodgers, Station Manager, Ms Lynnette Porter, Administrative/PA Support, 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 AND MEMBER'S INTERESTS

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, 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 or any declarations of Members' interests in respect of 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. MINUTE OF THE POLICE AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES COMMITTEE DATED 5 FEBRUARY 2015

The minute of the meeting of the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee dated 5 February 2015 was submitted and approved.

4. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Councillor Ross stated that he had not submitted a written question in relation to the proposal to transfer the remit of the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee to the Communities Committee as he was of the opinion that the decision was deferred at the meeting of The Moray Council on 29 April 2015 so that a report could be submitted to this Committee in relation to consultation taking place with Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service regarding the proposed move and sought clarification with regard to this matter.

In response, the Head of Development Services advised that it was his understanding that the decision at the meeting of The Moray Council on 29 April 2015 was to defer the decision to transfer the remit of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee to the Communities Committee so that formal consultation could take place with both Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and that, once a response to this consultation had been received, a report would then be submitted to a future meeting of The Moray Council for a decision to be made.

Councillor Divers concurred with the statement from Councillor Ross and stated that he too was of the opinion that a report should have been submitted to this Committee for discussion today.

Councillor McGillivray stated that he was of the same understanding as the Head of Development Services.

The Chair stated that a meeting was being held later that day with the Chair, Depute Chair, Head of Development Services and representation from both Police Scotland and the SFRS so that their comments on the proposal to transfer the remit of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee to the Communities Committee could be presented to a future meeting of The Moray Council. This was noted.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note that:

- (i) there were no written questions submitted; and
- (ii) a meeting was to be held later that day with the Chair, Depute Chair, Head of Development Services and representation from both Police Scotland and the SFRS so that their comments on the proposal to transfer the remit of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee to the Communities Committee could be presented to a future meeting of The Moray Council.

5. SFRS ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN 2015-16

There was submitted a report by the Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire & Moray, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service informing the Committee of the recently published Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Annual Operating Plan 2015-16 and the intentions to commence with implementation of Specialist Resources review.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the information relating to the production of robust implementation plans outlined in the report applicable to future provision of specialist resources at Elgin as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

6. OPERATIONAL VERBAL UPDATE – FIRE

The Committee agreed to note an informative oral update on operational matters from Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, and Mr David Meldrum, Group Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services and the responses to the relevant questions thereafter. The Committee further noted an invitation from Mr Rout to an Elected Member Engagement Event on 29 May 2015 at Elgin Fire Station.

7. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PERFORMANCE

There was submitted a report by the 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 2014-17.

Following consideration the Committee commended the SFRS for their continued good performance and thereafter agreed to note the performance outlined in the report applicable to annual performance for 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

8. FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE – FUTURE REPORTING FORMAT

There was submitted a report by the Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire & Moray, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service seeking approval from Committee for a revised template and format of presenting performance reports.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to approve the revised template and format for future performance reports as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

9. POLICE PERFORMANCE

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

During discussion surrounding the style of reporting for performance statistics, it was queried as to whether Police Scotland could adopt a similar performance mechanism to that of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), as it was considered that the SFRS presented their performance statistics in a manner that was more efficiently interpreted.

In response, Superintendent Stephens advised that she would give this request further consideration.

During further discussion, concern was raised in relation to an increase of 2 minutes and 6 seconds in response times for grade 1 police calls and it was requested that the reasons behind this increase be considered and reported back to a future meeting of this Committee.

In response, Superintendent Stephens agreed to provide a further report detailing why there is an increase in response times from 9:23 minutes in 2013-14 to 11:29 minutes in 2014-2015 to a future meeting of this Committee.

In response to a query as to why there was no column for “difference” and “% change” in the performance statistics in relation to Additional Indicators – Public Confidence and Response Times, Chief Inspector Todd agreed to include these columns in future performance reports.

During further discussion, it was stated that residents in Rafford had been complaining of traffic exceeding the speed limit when travelling from Lower Rafford to Upper Rafford and it was queried as to whether Police Scotland would consider providing speed recording equipment to residents in an effort to prove that this was happening.

In response, Superintendent Stephens advised that Police Scotland would not usually loan out speed recording equipment to members of the community however agreed to give further consideration to the provision of monitoring equipment to monitor the speed of vehicles travelling through lower Rafford to upper Rafford.

Thereafter, the Committee commended Police Scotland for their continued good performance and agreed:

- (i) to note the 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 Superintendent Stephens would give consideration to a similar performance reporting mechanism to that of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to enable more efficient interpretation of statistics;
- (iv) that a further report detailing why there is an increase in response times from 9:23 minutes in 2013-14 to 11:29 minutes in 2014-2015, be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee;

- (v) that future reports would include columns for “difference” and “% change” in the tables detailing Additional Indicators – Public Confidence and Response Times; and
- (vi) that consideration would be given to the provision of monitoring equipment to monitor the speed of vehicles travelling through lower Rafford to upper Rafford.

10. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Ross stated that on 11 March 2015, Chief Superintendent McLaren had sent an email to Councillors updating them on proposals to strengthen the North and East Divisions, however it was brought to his attention that a press release had been issued by Police Scotland 24 hours earlier and clarification was sought as to why it was felt necessary to inform the press of the proposals to change the divisional structures prior to the local engagement Councillors in Moray.

In response, Chief Inspector Todd advised that coordinating the release of information was challenging and that in this instance the press release had not come from Chief Superintendent McLaren’s office however Chief Inspector Todd assured the Committee that lessons would be learned from this incident and that efforts would be made to stop this from happening again however, as Police Scotland is a large organisation, this could not be guaranteed.

Councillor Ross further stated that the changes in the divisional structures proposed were within the North East division and not across the whole of Scotland and therefore he was of the opinion that Chief Superintendent McLaren should have been able to inform Councillors as soon as he was aware that the press release had been issued and, although he accepted the apologies from Police Scotland, stated that, as this had happened before, measures needed to be taken to make sure it didn’t happen again.

In response, Chief Inspector Todd acknowledged Councillor Ross’ comments.

Councillor Alexander sought clarification as to whether it was the responsibility of event organisers to decide whether police attendance was required at community events and whether there was a charge for this service.

In response, Chief Inspector Todd advised that in relation to some events, there was a requirement for the event organiser to inform the Council so that a licence could be issued and that, if this was the case, there was a relationship between the Council and the police whereby relevant information was passed on. He further stated that an assessment of the event would take place and further support provided if required. With regard to charging for police presence at events, Chief Inspector Todd advised that Police Scotland had adopted a charging model which was used if the police had been invited to attend the event however further advised that certain large events were the responsibility of Police Scotland to manage and that such events would not be chargeable.

11. OPERATIONAL VERBAL UPDATE – POLICE [PARA 14]

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