

THE MORAY COUNCIL**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES****THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2015****COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN****PRESENT**

Councillors G Alexander, J Divers, G Leadbitter, M McConachie and G McDonald.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors D Ross, R Shepherd and C Tuke.

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor D Slater.

IN ATTENDANCE

Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Campbell Thomson, Chief Inspector Willie Findlay and Chief Inspector Stewart Mackie, all of Police Scotland, Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Mr David Meldrum, Group Manager, Mr Bruce Milne, Station Manager, Mr Ben Law, Station Manager and Mr Gordon Morrison, Station Manager 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. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and Depute Chair, the Head of Development Services sought nominations from the Committee for the appointment of a Chair.

Councillor Divers nominated Councillor Alexander to Chair the meeting of the Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Leadbitter.

There being no-one otherwise minded, Councillor Alexander assumed the position of Chair.

2. 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.

3. 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>
10	14

4. MINUTE OF THE POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES COMMITTEE DATED 6 AUGUST 2015

The Minute of the Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee dated 6 August 2015 was submitted and approved.

5. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6. OPERATIONAL VERBAL UPDATE - FIRE

The Committee was provided with an informative oral update on SFRS operational matters from Mr David Meldrum, Group Manager, where he advised the Committee of the incidents that had taken place in the last quarter and the ongoing work in relation to prevention/protection and response/resilience.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the informative operational update from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the responses to the relevant questions thereafter.

7. FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE

Under reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of this Committee dated 26 March 2014, a report was submitted by the Local Senior Officer (LSO), Aberdeenshire and Moray, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS) informing the Committee of the performance of the SFRS locally in respect of the Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17.

Prior to discussion, Mr Rout, LSO introduced Mr Bruce Milne, Station Manager and Mr Gordon Morrison, Station Manager and advised that Mr Milne is responsible for the fire stations in Elgin, Lossiemouth, Gordonstoun, Keith and Cullen and Mr Morrison is responsible for the fire stations in Tomintoul, Dufftown, Aberlour, Rothes, Forres, Fochabers and Buckie. This was noted.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note:

- (i) the performance outlined in the report applicable to quarter 2 performance for 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015 as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report; and
- (ii) the newly appointed Station Managers and the stations under their responsibility.

8. POLICE PERFORMANCE

Under reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of this Committee dated 26 March 2014, a report was submitted by the Divisional Police Commander, Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Police Scotland informing the Committee of the performance of Police in respect of the Local Policing Plan 2014-2017, and other key indicators.

During discussion surrounding the statistics in relation to stop and search activity, clarification was sought regarding the reasons behind the decrease in this area.

In response, Chief Superintendent Thomson advised that stop and search was a tool used by police in relation to violence, drugs antisocial behaviour etc however sought the agreement of the Committee to submit a detailed report on the Stop and Search process to the next meeting of this Committee. This was agreed.

In relation to the presentation of performance statistics, Chief Superintendent Thomson sought guidance from the Committee on how they would like performance statistics presented in future reports.

In response, the Head of Development Services suggested that a small working group be assembled consisting of 4 Elected Members, a representative from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, a representative from Police Scotland and the Head of Development Services, to discuss how performance statistics are presented in future reports and the outcome be reported back to this Committee in due course. This was agreed.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed;

- (i) to note the performance outlined in the report as set out in Appendix 1;
- (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 a detailed report on the Stop and Search process be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee; and
- (iv) that a small working group be assembled consisting of 4 Elected Members, a representative from the SFRS, a representative from Police Scotland and the Head of Development Services to discuss how performance statistics are presented in future reports and the outcome be reported back to this Committee in due course.

9. CONTACT, COMMAND AND CONTROL DIVISION

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of this Committee dated 6 August 2015, a report was submitted by the Divisional Police Commander, Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Police Scotland providing the Committee with further information regarding the report presented at the meeting on 6 August 2015 which detailed Contact, Command and Control Division Performance.

Following lengthy discussion, during which Chief Superintendent Thomson and Chief Inspector Findlay responded to questions from the Committee in relation to the report, the Chair, in acknowledging that a great amount of time and effort had been spent analysing the response time statistics, sought the agreement of Committee that the average response times given in paragraph 3.27 of the report become the baseline against which future performance is measured. This was agreed.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed;

- (i) to note the information provided within the report;
- (ii) that the Divisional Police Commander will continue to monitor response times, particularly in light of any proposed move to the Control Room based in Dundee;
- (iii) that the Divisional Police Commander will continue to collate information on performance of response times on a weekly basis;
- (iv) that the Divisional Police Commander will provide access to information to the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee if required, to enable the Committee to examine data should they wish to do so;
- (v) that the Divisional Police Commander will continue to provide confidential briefings regarding resourcing levels as required; and
- (vi) that the average response times given in paragraph 3.27 of the report become the baseline against which future performance is measured.

10. UNWANTED FIRE ALARMS

The Chair invited Station Manager Ben Law, Fire Safety & Enforcement, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS), to provide an update in relation to the Unwanted Fire Alarms process.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to note an overview of the Unwanted Fire Alarms process by Station Manager Ben Law, Fire Safety & Enforcement where he advised that, 35% of operational activity was as a result of unwanted fire alarms and outlined the plans that are in place both nationally and locally to reduce this figure.

11. QUESTION TIME

Councillor McDonald thanked Mr Rout, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services for the information that he had provided in relation to establishment, resource and recruitment specific to the Buckie area and asked that he be kept informed of any changes, good or bad, in the future.

In response, Mr Rout, LSO advised that he would ensure that the newly appointed Station Manager responsible for Buckie would engage with Councillor McDonald from this point forward in relation to this matter.

12. OPERATIONAL UPDATE (VERBAL) [PARA 14]

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

13. TRIBUTE

The Committee, in acknowledging that this would be the last Committee that Chief Inspector Willie Findlay would be present, joined the Chair in thanking Chief Inspector Findlay for his contribution to the Committee and the people of Moray and stated that he would be a sad loss and wished him a long and happy retirement.

In response, Chief Inspector Findlay thanked the Committee for their well wishes and said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his past 4 years working in Moray and particularly appreciated the level of support and friendship he had received from the wider partnership and the Elected Members.