

THE MORAY COUNCIL**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
COMMITTEE****THURSDAY 18 AUGUST 2016****COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ELGIN****PRESENT**

Councillors J Allan (Depute-Chairman), G Alexander, J Divers, G Leadbitter, M McConachie, G McDonald, D Ross, C Tuke and S Warren.

APOLOGIES

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Superintendent Campbell Thomson and Chief Inspector Stewart Mackie, all from Police Scotland, Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer and Mr Bruce Milne, Station Manager, both from 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.

Paragraph No. of Minute Paragraph No. of Schedule 7A

12

14

3. MINUTE OF THE POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES COMMITTEE DATED 5 MAY 2016

The Minute of the Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee dated 5 May 2016 was submitted and approved.

4. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Committee noted that the following written questions had been submitted.

(a) Question Submitted by Councillor Alexander

Following a recent tragic accident in Moray, the family members of the deceased were obliged to visit the mortuary at Spynie to identify the remains of their loved one. Due to the inadequacy of the Spynie facility, this family was subjected to an awful experience. Can I be assured that the Spynie mortuary is now permanently closed and that future need for such a facility will be provided at a place which is much closer to Moray than Aberdeen eg Elgin or Inverness?

RESPONSE

'Mortuary Facilities are provided by NHS (Grampian) and Police Scotland are in effect a 'customer' in terms of usage of same.

There are ongoing local multi-agency discussions, led by colleagues in Health for the Moray area, to consider the best way forward in terms of provision of Mortuary facilities. NHS (Grampian) will ultimately be better placed to provide an update as to what the future provision will look like.

There is a commitment across the Partnership to provide an appropriate localised service.

Spynie Mortuary has not closed however until a long term solution is in place all formal identification processes will take place at the Mortuary at Dr Grays Hospital, Elgin.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Alexander stated that it was clear that the facility was unfit for the identification of the remains of a loved one and asked, in future, if Police Scotland would be more proactive when their partners are providing a poor service.

In response, Chief Superintendent Thomson advised that Police Scotland had been proactive in relation to the deliberation before the incident came to light and further advised that he had met with the Chief Executive of NHS Grampian and has a future meeting with a local representative from NHS Grampian via a working group on which Chief Inspector Mackie sits.

(b) Question Submitted By Councillor Tuke

Community Councils have been in the habit of receiving detailed monthly reports from Police Scotland, regarding crimes in their area. There seems to be some

confusion as to whether this practice will continue. Can I please have clarification on this issue?

RESPONSE

Over a period of time different formats have evolved to provide feedback to Community Councils. Perhaps this is an opportunity for elected members and community council leads to meet with the Local Area Commander and the relevant Community Policing Inspectors to refresh the agreement in terms of attendance and written reports.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Tuke stated that the response did not clarify whether reporting to Community Councils and Community Associations would continue or not and asked that a meeting with the Community Policing Inspectors be arranged as soon as possible.

In response, Chief Superintendent Thomson advised that each Community Council required a different level of communication from different partners and he was reluctant to commit to providing a set amount of reports every year. He did however advise that, in his opinion, it was better to interact with each Community Council/Association as required and that Chief Inspector Mackie and local Police Inspectors would meet with Community Council leads and Elected Members, with a view to getting an agreement in place.

5. OPERATIONAL VERBAL UPDATE – FIRE

Mr David Rout, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) advised that Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate would be inspecting Moray weeks commencing 7 and 14 November and would most likely attend the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Service Committee scheduled for 17 November 2016 to engage with Senior Officers and Elected Members. This was noted.

The Committee was then provided with an informative oral update on SFRS operational matters from Mr Bruce Milne, Station Manager, SFRS, where he advised that, during the previous quarter, the Fire Service had been involved in the extinguishing of fires, assisting in road traffic collisions, a chemical leak at Longmorn Distillery, rescuing people from water, and assisting in the evacuation of residents from Parklands Nursing home in Buckie following localised flooding. He further advised that the SFRS had taken part in the RAF friends and family day, a joint exercise with RAF Lossiemouth and a rescue person from height exercise. In addition, he made reference to the ongoing work in relation to prevention/protection and response/resilience.

During discussion, clarification was sought in relation to a proposed reduction to the number of vehicles used in training and asked if this presented an issue for training in Moray and the wider area.

In response, Mr Rout, LSO, advised that the proposal to reduce the number of training vehicles had been put forward from the Training and Employee Development Directorate however a business case had been submitted and an additional 17 end of life vehicles had been acquired as training vehicles.

In welcoming this news, Councillor Ross, through the Chair, suggested that a letter be sent to the Training and Employee Development Directorate commending the decision to increase the number of training vehicles by using 17 end of life vehicles, as a means of showing the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee's support of this action.

Councillor McDonald stated that, whilst he agreed with Councillor Ross' suggestion of a supporting letter, asked if the letter could be circulated to members of the Committee prior to it being sent. This was agreed.

Thereafter, the Committee joined the Chair in commending the Fire Brigade in the assistance they offered during the recent localised flooding of Parklands Nursing home in Buckie and agreed:

- (i) to note the informative operational update from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;
- (ii) to note that Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate will be inspecting Moray weeks commencing 7 and 14 November and will most likely attend the meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Service Committee scheduled for 17 November 2016 to engage with Senior Officers and Elected Members; and
- (iii) that a letter, commending the decision to increase the number of training vehicles by using 17 end of life vehicles, be circulated to the Committee for approval, then sent to the Training and Employee Development Directorate, showing the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee's support of this action.

6. FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE

A report by the Local Senior Officer, Aberdeenshire and Moray, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service informed 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 agreed to note the performance outlined in the report applicable to quarter 1 performance for 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

7. POLICE PERFORMANCE – COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE POLICE

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of this Committee dated 5 May 2016, a report by the Divisional Police Commander, North East Division, Police Scotland provided the Committee with further information in relation to a breakdown of complaints and in particular quality of service issues and an update including new processes and trends.

During discussion surrounding complaints about the police, clarification was sought as to how many complaints against the police had been upheld.

In response, Chief Superintendent Thomson advised that he did not have that information to hand and agreed to circulate the number of complaints against the police that had been upheld, to members of the Committee following the meeting.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the Police performance in relation to complaints about the Police; and
- (ii) that the number of complaints against the police that were upheld be circulated to members of the Committee following the meeting.

8. POLICE PERFORMANCE – DRINK AND DRUG DRIVING

A report by the Divisional Police Commander, North East Division, Police Scotland provided the Committee with information in relation to drink/drug driving, including specific detail on how the changes in limits have affected the number of drink drivers caught ie whether they are over the old limit or just over the new limit. The report also provided a break down between drink and drug driving.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the Police performance in relation to drink and drug driving.

9. POLICE PERFORMANCE – PROGRESS OF i6 AND THE IMPACT IT IS EXPECTED TO HAVE ON LOCAL POLICING

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of this Committee dated 5 May 2016, a report by the Divisional Police Commander, North East Division, Police Scotland informed the Committee of the progress of i6 (Police Scotland Information Technology Integration) and the impact it is expected to have on local policing.

During discussion, the Committee made known their disappointment that development of the i6 system had ended and, whilst it was noted that the report stated that the work of the i6 team had not been wasted, further assurance was sought in this regard. In addition, whilst the report was noted to say that there was no financial detriment to Police Scotland or the Scottish Police Authority to end the i6 contract, clarification was sought as to whether there had been any detriment to local officers or local forces who were awaiting an improved communication and information sharing system and whether a delay in producing a new information sharing system would present any risk.

In response, Chief Superintendent Thomson advised that the legacy systems within North East Division remain however at the moment there is no single system across Scotland for information sharing therefore there would be an element of risk whilst a new system is developed.

In response to other queries raised in relation to reassurance that the work completed on the development of i6 had not been wasted and whether there had been any detriment to the SPA and Police Scotland whilst waiting for the i6 system to come into operation, Chief Superintendent Thomson agreed to provide a fuller response to these queries following the meeting.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the police performance on the progress of i6 and the impact it is expected to have on local policing; and
- (ii) that the Committee be provided with a fuller response following the meeting in relation to the following queries raised:
 - reassurance that the work on i6 had not been wasted; and
 - whether there had been any detriment to the SPA and Police Scotland whilst waiting for the i6 system to come into operation.

10. POLICE PERFORMANCE

A report by the Divisional Police Commander, North East Division, Police Scotland informed the Committee of the performance of police in respect of the Local Policing Plan 2014-2017, and other key indicators.

Councillor Divers left during the discussion of this item.

During discussion surrounding the serious concerns that had been raised by a police officer at a meeting of Elgin Community Council, clarification was sought as to how the Force had dealt with the concerns that had been raised and reassured the public on staffing levels in Elgin and throughout Moray.

In response, Chief Inspector Mackie briefed the Committee on the events of the two nights in question and advised that, following a thorough investigation into the resources that were available on both nights, was satisfied that there was sufficient resource available on both evenings.

Chief Superintendent Thomson added that at times policing is challenging and his budget and resources are finite, however, on a daily basis, a tactical meeting takes place and it is decided where officers are deployed to according to threat, risk and harm faced.

During further discussion concern was raised in relation to the increase in the number of drug related deaths and it was queried if there was a reason behind the increase and what steps were being taken to reduce this figure.

In response, Chief Superintendent Thomson agreed to bring a report to a future meeting of this Committee exploring the reasons behind the increase in drug related deaths and the work that is being undertaken to reduce this figure.

Thereafter, the Committee joined the Chair in commending Police Scotland on an excellent performance report which demonstrated a strong Police Force and thereafter 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; and

- (iii) that a report be presented to a future meeting of this Committee in relation to the reasons behind the increase in drug related deaths and the work that is being undertaken to reduce this figure.

11. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Ross stated that, whilst he welcomed the impending discussions between local Community Police Inspectors and Community Councils, asked if he could have a commitment from Chief Superintendent Thomson that statistical reports would continue to be submitted to Community Councils.

In response, Chief Superintendent Thomson advised that it would be his preference that information is given to Elected Members or Community Councils on an adhoc basis and advised that, if he agreed to quarterly reports, then these reports would have to be compiled by someone and that there was the danger that they become a routine statistical report with no significance. He further advised that, as there was clearly a desire for a statistical report for Community Councils in Moray, he would rather that a discussion takes place between local Police Inspectors and Community Council leads to establish the information required in the first instance.

Councillor Ross stated that he was not requesting a new reporting procedure as up until recently, statistical reports had been issued to Community Councils and was asking that this practice be continued.

In response, Chief Superintendent Thomson advised that he appreciated Councillor Ross' point however asked that the meeting take place in the first instance between Local Police Inspectors and Community Council leads before any decision is made. This was agreed.

Councillor Alexander sought an update in relation to police no waiting cones as he was of the opinion that the police no longer set out cones for community events and stated that some organisations were considering buying cones and renting them out if required.

In response, the Head of Development Services advised that Police Scotland no longer provided no waiting cones however the Council could provide organisations with up to 75 cones for events.

Chief Inspector Mackie further advised that Police Scotland would always assist if required however the first point of contact should be the Local Authority.

Councillor Tuke queried how many cones the Local Authority had available.

In response the Head of Development Services advised that he was not aware exactly how many cones the council had however would issue a maximum of 75 cones per event.

12. OPERATIONAL VERBAL UPDATE – POLICE [PARA 14]

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