

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian Civic Centre, on 11 DECEMBER 2017.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), David Dodds and Dom McGuire (substituting for Kirsteen Sullivan); Graham Hope (Chief Executive, WLC), Graeme Struthers (Depute Chief Executive, WLC), Alistair Shaw (Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services, WLC); Yvonne Beresford (Policy & Performance Officer, WLC). Tim Ward (Senior Manager, Young People and Public Protection, WLC); David Lockhart (Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Martin Riach (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service); Liz Macleod (Area Commander, Police Scotland)

Apologies – Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan

Absent – Councillor Charles Kennedy

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTE

The Board confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 18 September 2017. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE TRANSFORMATION

The Board were provided with a presentation by David Lockhart, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service which provided an overview of the transformation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Mr Lockhart explained that the service needed to adapt and change particularly in light of reducing budgets and changing risks and to remain relevant to the needs of Scotland. Whilst there continued to be a reduction in fires, due in part to the preventative agenda, there were new risks elsewhere including dealing with climate change incidents, such as flooding, terrorism and dealing with an ageing population.

By transforming, the SFRS would be able to deliver a more efficient and effective service and would allow a move to a model whereby resources were placed where there was the greatest need. An increased use in technology would also be explored as would the role of the fire fighter.

The presentation continued with information on the budget costs and pressures noting that the proposed transformation would release efficiencies to deliver more and allow the service to meet today's risks.

The future role of the firefighter was also explored in the presentation.

The presentation concluded advising that an extensive consultation exercise would follow in the coming months and that the SFRS were keen to engage with the public, staff and key stakeholders.

Decision

To note the contents of the presentation

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY QUARTERLY STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing information from Covalent (the council's performance monitoring system) showing a number of community safety performance indicators for Quarter 2 of 2017-18.

Yvonne Beresford, the council's Policy and Performance Manager provided the board with an overview of the performance indicators and proceeded to highlight significant issues in some of the indicators

Decision

To note the contents of the report

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE 2018-21

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Partnership Analyst advising of the terms of reference that had been produced to define the scope and purpose of the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2018-2021 (CSP).

The Strategic Assessment would recommend through analysis, environmental, scanning and priority setting, the community safety priorities for 2018-2021. Due recognition would be taken of Police and Fire Service plans, Community Planning priorities and the local Single Outcome Agreements (SOA's)

The aim of the CSP Strategic Assessment was to identify, assess and prioritise aspects of Community Safety and key parts of organisational business that impacted upon service delivery by all partners. Focus on key themes and casual factors would continue and prevention and early intervention would be explored in more depth.

The CSP Strategic Assessment would be produced primarily from analysis undertaken by the West Lothian CSP Analyst and the local Policy Analyst. The document would be predominantly qualitative but based on quantitative data and intelligence/information sourced from across the partnership. A range of partners had been identified to assist with the data collection phase and environmental scanning process.

The data period would be April 2013 to March 2017, however it was

recognised that due to timescales involved, differences in data collection across partners and the strategic nature of the document there would be flexibility in this regards. The data range would provide three-year average data compared to the last twelve months' worth of data.

The timeline for carrying out the strategic assessment was summarised in the report.

The Board was asked to approve the CSSA timeline to allow the next stage in the process to proceed.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

6. WEST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY JUSTICE OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2017-18 - PROGRESS ON ACTION PLAN

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing a progress report on the Action Plan contained within the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan.

The report recalled that following the introduction of Community Justice in Scotland, West Lothian Community Planning Partnership had held full responsibility for Community Justice implementation in West Lothian. As a part of the process, each CPP was required to prepare and submit to Community Justice Scotland a Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP).

The Action Plan contained in the CJOIP was extensive and reflected a range of activities, each of which contributed to the local Community Justice agenda. These activities covered both the legal requirements laid out in enabling legislation and the broader agenda for supporting community development that had formed a key part of the Scottish Government's statements about its vision for Community Justice.

It was acknowledged that the West Lothian Action Plan formed the basis of a long-term local agenda for developing provision and services and although the plan covered only a one year period, it was clear that many tasks would occupy partners for a number of year.

Subsequently the Reducing Re-Offending Sub-Committee had reviewed the activities and proposed outcomes in West Lothian's original Action Plan and had further prioritised these and re-evaluated progress being made across a reasonably wide range of indicators.

In order to provide the right focus a shortened version of the action plan had been produced to enable the Reducing Re-Offending Sub Committee to focus on immediate progress The current version of the Action Note was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The Action Plan identified a range of activities that were considered crucial to the success of the Community Justice agenda. The Action Plan

also highlighted areas of organisational development that needed to work in order to realise the vision for Community Justice. Many of these were very much about ensuring that partner organisations understood fully the changes in approach and the potential implications for them of new ways in which we could jointly deliver services.

The main areas of focus over the next period was summarised in the report.

The Community Safety Board was asked to :-

1. Note the content of the report
2. Notes that updates would be provided on the progress of the partnership in addressing the issues raised; and
3. Approve the content of the Action Plan.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

7. SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE LOCAL PLAN 2017 (DRAFT)

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an overview of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2017.

The report recalled that following the review of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2014-17, the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2017 had been developed to a stage where it had been released for consultation with key stakeholders and members of the community in West Lothian.

There were seven priorities identified within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2017 which were as follows :-

- Local Risk Management and Preparedness
- Domestic Fire Safety
- Deliberate Fire Setting
- Non Domestic Fire Safety
- Road Safety
- Unintentional Harm and Injury
- Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

The Board was asked to note the content of the Local Fire and Rescue

Plan for West Lothian 2017 and to consider submitting a response to the plan

Decision

1. To note the contents of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2017; and
2. To note that a response on behalf of the council would be co-ordinated through the Services for the Community PDSP and Council Executive.

8. BONFIRE/FIREWORKS 2017

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an overview of the multi-agency preventative and operational response joint activities within the West Lothian area during the Bonfire/Firework period 2017.

The Board were advised that a number of multi-agency preventative activities were employed to raise awareness of the potential dangers of bonfires and fireworks. Community Safety Partners were involved in a number of initiatives as part of the multi-agency approach. These included :-

- Demand reduction education plan
- Identification of unlicensed bonfires/fireworks
- Community engagement

The report continued that on 5 November 2017 the number of dangerous bonfire incidents dealt with by operational crews increased by 90% (an increase of 9 incidents) when compared to 2016. A table within the report provided a comparison of operational response activity over the past five years.

Over the 8-day period from 31 October to 7 November 2017 the number of dangerous bonfires dealt with by operational crews had increased by 29% (an increase of 6 incidents) when compared to 2016. A table within the report provided a comparison of operational response activity over the past five years.

The weather on 5 November 2017 was relatively clear and it was a Sunday so these were considered to be contributory factors to the number of bonfire related incidents on 5 November itself.

There was also one reported attack on Firefighters recorded on 5 November 2017 which was an increase from zero the previous year.

With regards to operational Police Scotland response activity anti-social behaviour calls for the period 1 to 8 November 2017 increased from 219 calls in 2016 to 247 in 2017, an increase of 12.8%. This level was still

lower than the total number of calls seen two years ago (2015) for the same period. Further information was contained in a table in the report.

Youth disorder had gone down from 54 calls for this period in 2016 to 42 calls in 2017, a reduction of 22%. This was a very positive reduction in youth calls in comparison to 2016 however Livingston and Blackburn were the only two areas to show a high number of calls.

Finally the report advised that figures provided by NHS Lothian indicated that there had been four admissions to St John's Hospital related to the bonfire/firework period. Details of these were summarised in the report.

The report concluded that whilst there had been a 29% increase in SFRS incidents related to the bonfire/firework period the continued partnership working through the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership appeared to have had a positive impact on public awareness and the approach to bonfire celebrations on the lead up to 5 November 2017.

The 2017 Bonfire Strategy for West Lothian appeared to have contributed to this positive impact and would be reviewed to remain relevant to Community Safety Unit partners.

The Board were invited to note the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

9. SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE UFAS PDA REDUCTION PROCEDURES

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing an overview of the SFRS Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Per-Determined Attendance (PDA) Reduction Procedure.

SFRS were committed to reducing UFAS incidents through the introduction of a UFAS PDA Reduction Procedure. The aim of the procedure was to reduce risks to firefighters and communities through the reduction of unnecessary blue light journeys. In particular, it offered a standardised approach that would assist Local Senior Officers (LSO's) to determine an appropriate emergency response for non-sleeping/low risk premises within their areas.

Calls emanating from automatic fire alarm (AFA) systems accounted for a high percentage of all incidents attended by the SFRS each year, with only a small number being generated as a result of a fire. This level of activity placed an unnecessary burden on public sector resources and could cause further disruption to communities and to businesses across Scotland. In recognition of this the current AFA response strategy for non-sleeping/low risk premises had been reviewed and a new UFAS PDA Reduction Procedure had been implemented.

The key objectives of the procedure was to :-

- a) Lower the potential risks to firefighters and communities through the reduction of unnecessary blue light journeys;
- b) Provide a standard approach that would assist LSO's to determine an appropriate emergency response strategy for non-sleeping/low risk premises; and
- c) Provide a considered, balanced and risk based process to support local demand reduction measures.

It was now proposed that this procedure be rolled out in West Lothian and area duty holders would be lettered designating individual premises under their control which had been considered through a risk rating process for a PDA reduction.

This approach was not unique to West Lothian and was happening across the whole of Scotland.

The Board were asked to support the implementation of the SFRS Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Per-Determined Attendance (PDA) Reduction Procedure.

Decision

To support the implementation of the SFRS Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Per-Determined Attendance (PDA) Reduction Procedure.

10. PROPOSED COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING DATES 2018

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Policy and Performance Manager advising of dates for meetings of the Board in 2018. They were as follows :-

- Monday 5 March 2018 at 2pm
- Monday 4 June 2018 at 2pm
- Monday 17 September 2018 at 2pm
- Monday 10 December 2018 at 2pm

If these dates were approved by the Board then the following dates were proposed for the Safer Community Strategic Planning Group :-

- ❖ Tuesday 13 February 2018
- ❖ Tuesday 15 May 2018
- ❖ Tuesday 21 August 2018
- ❖ Tuesday 13 November 2018

Decision

To approve the terms of the report