

Item: 20

Police and Fire Sub-committee: 14 February 2023.

1. Recommendations

It is recommended:

1.1.

That the Committee approves the attached minute as a true record.

1.2.

That the Committee considers the recommendations at paragraph 5.6.

2. Appendix

Draft Minute of the Meeting of the Police and Fire Sub-committee held on 14 February 2023.

Minute

Police and Fire Sub-committee

Tuesday, 14 February 2023, 14:00.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors David Dawson, Duncan A Tullock, Alexander G Cowie, Raymond S Peace, Jean E Stevenson and Mellissa-Louise Thomson.

Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillor Graham A Bevan.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Hayley Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- Kenny MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities.
- Georgette Herd, Solicitor.
- David Miller, Safety and Resilience Officer.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service:

- Scott Gibson, Local Senior Officer.

Police Scotland:

- Chief Inspector Scott Robertson, Area Commander.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor David Dawson.

1. Tribute to Scottish Fire and Rescue Firefighter

The Chair referred to the death of Firefighter Barry Martin who, after sustaining critical injuries tackling a blaze in Edinburgh, had passed away, following which the Sub-committee observed a minute's silence.

2. Urgent Item

In terms of Standing Order 13.3, the Sub-committee:

Noted that the Chair had permitted discussion of the following urgent item:

- Local Police Plan.

3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Performance Against Orkney Fire and Rescue Plan

After consideration of a report by Scott Gibson, Local Senior Officer, copies of which had been circulated, the Sub-committee:

Scrutinised the statistical performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Orkney Islands area, for the period 1 October to 31 December 2022, detailed in the Quarterly Performance Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Local Senior Officer, and obtained assurance that progress was being made against the objectives.

4. Performance Against Local Policing Plan

After consideration of a report by Chief Inspector Scott Robertson, Area Commander, copies of which had been circulated, the Sub-committee:

Scrutinised progress in respect of the Orkney Islands Local Policing Plan 2020-2023, for the period 1 April to 31 December 2022, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Area Commander, and obtained assurance that progress was being made against the objectives.

5. Urgent Item

Local Police Plan

In terms of section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Chair permitted urgent discussion of this item in order that the Sub-committee could consider a formal Council response to a consultation exercise through the appropriate governance process, prior to submission.

After consideration of a joint report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure and the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities, the Sub-committee:

Noted:

5.1. That Community Empowerment legislation was driving the future landscape across Community Planning Partnerships, with the police having clearly defined roles.

5.2. That the Orkney Local Policing Plan had been designed to articulate the broad contribution to the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, in keeping with the commitment to table long term issues, in partnership with local partners and communities.

5.3. The draft Orkney Islands Police Plan 2023-2026, attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure and the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions, which was subject to public consultation, with responses required by 12 February 2023.

5.4. That the Council had requested an extension to the deadline for responses to enable the Police and Fire Sub-committee to consider a draft response, which was granted.

5.5. The Council's draft response to the consultation on the Orkney Islands Police Plan 2023-2026, attached as Appendix 2 to the joint report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure and the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions.

The Sub-committee resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

5.6. That the Council's response to the consultation on the draft Orkney Islands Police Plan 2023-2026, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved for submission to Police Scotland by the revised deadline of 16 February 2023.

The Sub-committee noted:

5.7. That, due to the time constraints involved, the Chief Executive would be requested to exercise emergency powers to authorise submission of the Council's response to the consultation on the Orkney Islands Police Plan 2023-2026, prior to approval by the Council.

6. Conclusion of Meeting

At 15:05 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: (Chair).

Draft Orkney Police Plan 2023-26 – Consultation Response

The Police and Fire Sub-committee of Orkney Islands Council makes the following response to the Consultation on the draft Orkney Police Plan 2023-26:

- The local priorities specified in the Local Police Plan are fit for purpose.
NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE.
- The local objectives and activities specified in the Local Police Plan are fit for purpose.
NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE.
- Overall, the Local Police Plan is fit for purpose.
NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE.

Please leave any further comments you have about the draft Local Policing Plan for your area:

The Police and Fire Sub-committee neither agrees nor disagrees with the local priorities, objectives, and activities in the draft Local Police Plan because while the Police and Fire Subcommittee would recognise that much of the content of the Plan is relevant our impression is that it reads as a generic plan and not one that has been written specifically for Orkney.

Once this is addressed via the review of the consultation and the Plan is updated to make reference to specific local concerns we would view it as more fit for purpose.

Currently there is no reference in the draft plan to an Island Communities Impact Assessment (as required by the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, and we would expect to have seen this appended to the draft plan. Had they been completed; we have no doubt that relevant local issues would have been picked up.

There are a number of specific points that we would wish to highlight as part of our response to the consultation:

1. We would ask as to whether the draft Local Police Plan has been subjected to Island Communities Impact Assessment, taking into account the significant differences between all of Orkney's island communities.
2. We would request that the reference to Neighbourhood Watch be removed as there are no Neighbourhood Watch activities in Orkney and therefore not applicable. This should be replaced with alternative community liaison work to support our communities in identifying crime preventative measures.
3. In relation to Strategic Objective 1: "Threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive Police service" and the Activity: "Focus on preventative measures relating to Serious Organised Crime", we would ask to see milestones defined specifically around actions to prevent the supply of illegal drugs. This has also been identified as a key priority by Orkney's new Local Area Commander.

4. As the delivery of diversionary activities is not limited to the third sector in Orkney, we would request that the Local Police Plan additionally recognises the work of Orkney Islands Council teams, for example, Community Learning and Development as a contributor to Strategic Outcome 2: “The needs of local communities are addressed through effective Service Delivery” and/or Strategic Outcome 3: “The public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in Policing”
5. We would request that the Local Police Plan references the Orkney Community Justice Partnership’s Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (the CJOIP).
6. In terms of the Objective: “Work with local groups and public, third sector and private sector organisations to support our communities” and the proposed Activity: “Engage with Third Sector groups and Local Authority partners to support refugees (EG -Displaced by the conflict in Ukraine)”, we wish to highlight that Orkney has a very small number of refugees not only from Ukraine but from other backgrounds too. Furthermore, given this very small number of refugees, can we ask that an additional Activity is defined regarding Engagement with Third Sector Groups and Local Authority Partners to support a wider set of communities?
7. In regard to Activity: “Strengthen and enhance work with partners to tackle violence”, we would seek further underlining of the need to tackle domestic violence in particular.
8. In terms of the Strategic Outcome 5: “Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges” and the Objective; “Use innovative approaches to accelerate our capacity and capability for effective service delivery”, we would ask that an Activity is defined concerning:
 - a. the need to ensure sufficient policing resources within Orkney,
 - b. the need to ensure the availability of central specialist resources to Orkney when required and
 - c. the development and expansion of the Special Constabulary roles across Orkney’s isles via campaigns and innovative approaches to support such individuals’ training and development.
9. On that same Strategic Outcome 5, it would be useful to highlight the need for innovative approach in the context of Policing our Island Communities.
10. We would like to see an explanation in the Plan of how an emergency response is to be provided in all of Orkney’s island communities.
11. We feel that the Plan has missed an opportunity to make a meaningful connection to the Orkney Partnership’s draft Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023-30 and specifically the strategic priority of Local Equality which is highly relevant to the Local Police Plan.
12. Finally, we would seek a statement to be included recognising that the impacts of crime in rural locations are often more acutely felt by our communities where populations are small and community resilience is more challenged.