

The background of the slide features a large, light blue outline of the coat of arms of Scotland. It includes a crown at the top with four thistles, a shield divided into four quarters (a saltire, a lion, a unicorn, and a ship), and a motto scroll at the bottom with the text 'AN FUR A'.

Agenda Item 4

Police Scotland – Update

Falkirk Council

Title: Police Scotland – Update

Meeting: Scrutiny Committee (External)

Date: 1 December 2016

Submitted By: Director of Corporate and Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on issues raised at its meeting on 18 August 2016 with Chief Superintendent Stephen McAllister. It also updates Committee on the meeting with the Chief Superintendent held on the 19th August 2016 between the Leader of the Council, the Public Protection Portfolio holder Cllr Blackwood and the Convener of the Scrutiny Committee Cllr Jackson with the Council's Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement in attendance.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee notes the update on the matters for which further information was requested.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Members will recall that at Committee in August a number of issues were raised with representatives of Police Scotland Members. At Committee, Members were advised that there was a meeting taking place the following day with Police Scotland to discuss those same issues. These included:
- CCTV, including Police Scotland's expectations on this service going forward;
 - The provision of services at Bandeath, Stirling for stray dogs and Police Scotland's intentions re future funding;
 - Parking enforcement;
 - Management of parades;
 - The impact of the national review on the supervisory structure for local community policing; and
 - Future engagement on the issues above with Members of the Council.
- 3.2 In response to the above, the Chief Superintendent has provided an up to date briefing which is attached as appendix 1.

- 3.3 A note of the issues raised at the meeting is also attached at appendix 2. It was agreed that a meeting would be held for all Members of the Council to discuss these and other issues with Police Scotland. This meeting is currently being organised.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 A separate report on future options for the provision of local CCTV services is drafted for consideration of Members in the near future.

5. Consultation

Nil

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 Nil.

Resources

- 6.2 Nil.

Legal

- 6.3 Nil.

Risk

- 6.4 If appropriate services are not provided by Police Scotland then there is a risk to the safety of our communities.

Equalities

- 6.5 Nil.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 Nil.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 There are a range of issues that Police Scotland have been asked to provide information on. It is important that all Members have an understanding of the position on these. While the meetings held to date and planned for the future are useful, a further meeting with all Members will be organised.

Director of Corporate and Housing Services

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Date - 23 November 2016

APPENDICES

Appendix One – Update on Issues from Police Scotland

Appendix Two – Note of meeting held on 19th August 2016.

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- None

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FOR INFORMATION			
Disclosable under FOISA 2002		YES	
Author/Contact	Ch Supt Stephen McAllister	Department / Unit	Forth Valley Local Police Commander
Date Created	12 November 2016	Telephone	101
Attachments: Nil			

BRIEFING PAPER FOR FALKIRK SCRUTINY BOARD – 1 DECEMBER 2017

The following provides an update on matters requested by Falkirk Scrutiny Board from the last meeting on 18 August 2016

Falkirk Scrutiny Performance Report

A review was agreed to be undertaken of the provision of information to Falkirk Council Scrutiny Board and the Local Police Commander and senior representatives of Falkirk Council were tasked with taking this forward. This work was being coordinated by a member of staff at Falkirk Police Office who has unfortunately been off long term absent. As such this work is still at the initial stage and meetings have been planned to review work to date and formulate a revised proposal that will meet the needs of the Scrutiny Board. It is proposed to provide this revised document in time for submission to the next Scrutiny Board in August 2017.

CCTV

In January 2016, agreement was reached between the Local Police Commander and Falkirk Council for a CCTV contribution for the financial year 2016/2017. This was to contribute to the maintenance costs of the Falkirk Town Centre CCTV system. Both parties agreed a reduced CCTV monitoring service in recognition of reduced funding available and a peak time service was devised. This change took effect from 1 April 2016 with the monitoring company, Enigma Security Solutions, continuing to provide staff, under contract to Falkirk Council, with no change to the established review process.

This peak time service has worked well and would be the preferred model going forward. However in the recent budget proposals published for public consultation by Falkirk Council there is a proposal to move to a monitored service only and if agreed would reduce Council commitment by £75k, effectively withdrawing funding.

The Forces current position, while a National CCTV review is being undertaken and any recommendations awaited, is that the local Police Commander is unable to identify future CCTV funding at this time. It is hoped that the National CCTV review will allow for a coordinated, government supported solution to this reducing service issue.

Stray Dogs

A partnership agreement has been in place between three constituent Local Authorities and Forth Valley Division since 2004. In December 2015 Forth Valley Division provided 12 months notice of their intention to withdraw from this agreement. Whilst this notice remains effective. On 6 April 2016 the Microchipping of Dogs (Scotland) Regulations 2016 came into effect which requires all dogs in Scotland to be microchipped and information about every

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dog to be recorded on a national database. The introduction of this legislation has contributed to a reduced throughput of dogs to the facility by all partners in comparison to the previous year; with a 21% reduction in the number of dogs received at Bandeath Dogs Shelter on behalf of police between April and September 2016.

Police Scotland will continue to have a duty to receive stray and non-stray dogs. As such efforts have been ongoing to identify and assess the viability of prospective options which will ensure service continuity is maintained when the current partnership agreement is terminated on 31 December 2016.

Parking Enforcement

Since 1 April 2016 there has been no traffic warden provision within the Falkirk Council Area to deal with on street parking issues. The Division is aware that the Director of Development Services, Falkirk Council, is submitting an application to the Scottish Ministers via Transport Scotland seeking Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) powers within the Council Area.

All Officers within Falkirk Area Command are acutely aware of the local parking issues in their areas and they are actively working with local councillors to address areas of concern. It is our intention not to reduce this commitment in the absence of traffic wardens and DPE powers but to maintain this local focus in consultation with communities and elected members in enforcing relevant parking legislation where competing priorities allow. Police Officers will continue to be involved in enforcement where parking is dangerous or causing significant obstruction, and also enforcement in relation to disabled parking bays.

Management of Parades

On 22 April 2016, Assistant Chief Constable Bernard Higgins confirmed in a letter to Falkirk Council that existing legislation did not contain powers permitting Police Scotland Officers to regulate traffic for pre-planned events. Extensive work had been carried out to examine legislation in order to determine the duties that Officers could legally undertake. In general terms, legislation permits officers to regulate traffic in spontaneous circumstances, such as in emergencies, or in response to offences being committed, but this does not include pre-planned events. The Police Scotland position is that actions of police officers must be supported by legislation.

Consequently, in order to facilitate an event that impacts on traffic management, Police Scotland recommended that organisers work with the local roads authority to put the necessary Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO's) and any appropriate traffic management plans in place. Where the staging of an event interferes with traffic, the Road Traffic Regulation Act (Special Events) Act 1994 gives powers to the relevant traffic authority to grant a TTRO and it is this order that permits road closures or other traffic management measures to be implemented. Police Scotland can assist in this as part of a multi-agency approach driven through the Local Authority.

As you might expect, this has had an impact on some events, where alignment with new procedures has required an element of change to local practice. It is acknowledged that previously Officers may have assisted organisers of such events by closing off roads, controlling traffic and generally ensuring the safety of the public for the duration of an event. This appears to have been done on goodwill and on an informal basis but without authority. Police Scotland has no desire to jeopardise

community events but responsibility and activity must be restricted to and in keeping with the limitations of current legislation.

Since this position was communicated there have been a number of events taken place within the Falkirk Area. The TTRO's and Traffic Management Plans have added to the value of these events, establishing safe routes for participants to operate within and providing a key element to the safety of an event. Officers have continued to work with organisers and traffic management companies to ensure plans are appropriate, proportionate and complement the effective delivery of a successful event.

Community Policing supervisory structure within Falkirk Area Command

Police Scotland is currently undertaking a national review of supervisory resources across the Force with a view to streamlining supervisory numbers to support increasing the number of officers engaged in frontline policing.

As a result of this review within Falkirk Area Command the community policing deployment model will change with the reduction of one Inspectors post. There are currently three Inspector posts within the structure and on review it has been established that the remaining two Inspectors have the capacity and capability to absorb the workload and supervisory functions of the outgoing post holder.

Two Inspectors will therefore have responsibility for the Ward Officers based at Falkirk, Larbert and Grangemouth. It should be noted that there is no change to the numbers of Sergeants posts within this structure nor the numbers of Ward Officers in the deployment model. In preparation for the foregoing, internal and external consultation and discussion is ongoing to ensure the affected staff, elected members and local communities are aware of the proposals.

Submitted for the information and attention of Falkirk Council Scrutiny Board.

Chief Superintendent Stephen McAllister
Local Police Commander
Forth Valley Division

Police Scotland and Falkirk Council

Briefing Note of meeting held on 19 August 2016

Present

Cllr C Martin, Leader of Falkirk Council

Cllr J Blackwood, Portfolio holder, Public Protection

Cllr S Jackson, Convener, External Scrutiny Committee

Stephen McAllister, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland

Fiona Campbell Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement, Falkirk Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Members welcomed the new Chief Superintendent to the Council and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to:
- 1.2. Discuss consultation on national initiatives and decisions – importantly the impact of these decisions on local services
- 1.3. Update on national and local policing priorities
- 1.4. Local initiatives and areas for concern – what are the issues specific to Falkirk?
- 1.5. Future work and initiatives – what are Police Scotland's priorities for Falkirk going forward, specifically in relation to the priorities within the new Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan; and
- 1.6. Regular liaison meetings – future focus and agenda items

The following gives a brief summary of the key issues raised at the meeting.

2. Policing Issues

- 2.1. Increase in armed officers and their deployment across Scotland. This changed model of delivery was in relation to the need to be able to respond timeously to potential threats across Scotland. Members were asked to provide feedback on this issue as there was a lot of negative press on this specifically. Issues were discussed around the need to balance safety with that of reassurance and perception of threat i.e. will people actually feel safer? There will be more information available on this in spring 2017.

3. Police in Schools

- 3.1. The model of police officers in schools appeared to be working well. It was important, though, that these police officers should be part of the wider community and not just the school community. If this wider role was adopted then there would be a reduction in crime in surrounding areas. There is interest in rolling out this model to other areas across Scotland.

4. Decision Making at a National Level

- 4.1. The issue of autonomy of decision making to local commanders is being addressed by Police Scotland within a framework of consistency of delivery. Police Scotland want local command teams to be accountable for local decisions including the deployment of the 600 staff within Forth Valley. Within this delegated model of delivery, Members asked about the ability to take decisions on budgets locally. It was not clear as to the levels of autonomy, given the need to action decisions re budgets taken nationally and indeed to reflect national policy decisions. It was agreed that there needed to be more and earlier communication of the impact of budget decisions on services locally. It was noted that approx. 92% of Police Scotland budget's goes towards staffing costs.

5. Changing Delivery

- 5.1. Police Scotland is looking to make efficiencies including reviewing the make up of local policing teams and the management structures. This included looking at roles of inspectors, sergeants and constables. The first stage of this review will start in the autumn.
- 5.2. Reflecting the way the public access service, e.g. over the phone, Police Scotland was introducing a managed call system to book appointments with local officers. Additional resources were being deployed into supporting this, along with a domestic abuse proactive unit, cyber crime and also sexual investigations teams.
- 5.3. To support the changing face of crime, a significant level of training was taking place to upskill officers on a range of issues.
- 5.4. It was recognised that how Police Scotland engages with Elected Members had changed. It was important that all Members received information provided to Community Councils on local incidents. The priorities within the recently approved SOLD were acknowledged.
- 5.5. There was a discussion on the number of drug related deaths in the area. There is a multi agency meeting being organised to look specifically at this issue.
- 5.6. There were a number of other issues covered including
- 5.6.1. Work to ensure the police are focusing resources on their priorities

- 5.6.2. A focus on supporting children from problem families
- 5.6.3. Safe Place Scheme
- 5.6.4. Organised crime
- 5.6.5. Working with the 3rd Sector to divert women away from offending.

6. Other key Issues

- 6.1. CCTV – it was noted that there was a short term working group looking at the future of CCTV across Scotland. There was a discussion about funding of the current arrangements and if continued, the significant investment required in equipment.
- 6.2. Policing of Parades – the changes in policing of parades came about due to the need to comply with new regulations. There are various responsibilities around this, including for the Council. It was noted that some organisations already use external providers to fulfil their traffic management responsibilities. Again, notification of the changes could have been more timeous and it was agreed that there would be more regular updates when such changes are planned.
- 6.3. Bandeath Stray Dogs Facility – there was a discussion on funding of this facility and the timeline for decisions. It was noted that there was meeting being organised by the Buddies of Bandeath to which all 3 Councils and the Police was invited. Cllr Blackwood was attending these along with other Members.

7. Future Meetings

- 7.1. It was agreed that there would be a briefing session for all Members to ensure that any questions they had could be covered. It was further agreed that a strategic meeting would be organised for the Leader, Portfolio Holder and Convener of Scrutiny Committee to meet with Police Scotland on a more regular basis approx. every four months. This meeting is in addition to the regular reports to Scrutiny Committee.