

S15. POLICE SCOTLAND – FALKIRK PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services presenting the first local performance report by the Local Commander, Police Scotland.

Local Commanders were required, in terms of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, to report performance of the local policing as measured against the Local Policing Plan and to provide information about complaints against the police or in regard to policing.

Mr Flynn gave a presentation on the detail of the performance report and provided an overview of incidents within the area which necessitated the use of national resources. Mr Flynn indicated that he intended to provide greater contextual, such as bench marking information, within future reports, together with national trend analysis where relevant.

Committee then questioned Mr Flynn on his report and presentation.

The Committee sought clarification from Mr Flynn on the local policing arrangements, in particular the role of the local community officers and stressed the importance of having offices embedded within the local community for a number of years. This included having accessible police officers. Members also questioned Mr Flynn on communication between local officers and members.

Members sought information on:

- the causes of the overall fall in recorded crime in the Falkirk Council area
- the rationale for the introduction of the non emergency number 101 and whether it had been a success
- the steps taken to prevent metal thefts and whether the partnership approach had been successful
- the diversity within police staff and how local recruitment was now managed following the merge into a national service

The Committee then questioned Mr Flynn on the impact of national efficiency targets locally and in particular on the estate and on civilian staff numbers in particular.

Decision

The Committee noted the performance of the service in regard to the Local Policing Plan.

The Committee requested that the Local Commander:-

- (1) include benchmarking information in future reports when available;**
- (2) provides members with details of local police offices and of officers' contact details;**
- (3) looks into the practical implementation of the policy in regard to engaging with local members, and**
- (4) looks into the practical implementation of partnership working arrangements.**

