

S33. POLICE SCOTLAND - FALKIRK AREA COMMAND - PERFORMANCE REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services presenting the 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.

Chief Superintendent Flynn gave a presentation on the detail of the report together with information on Police Scotland's review of its public counter provision and its current consultation on withdrawing its traffic warden services. He also highlighted actions undertaken as a consequence of comments at the previous meeting on 8 August 2013.

In regard to local performance, the committee sought further detail on the recorded increase in scrap metal thefts, the decrease in violent behaviour and in particular whether the introduction of taxi wardens had contributed this reduction.

The committee discussed the recent announcement by Police Scotland that it intended to close a number of local police offices and rationalise its public counter provision. Although no stations in Falkirk were affected, members questioned the rationale behind the decision and sought further information on the consultations undertaken by Police Scotland, on its proposal.

In response to a question as to whether community officers would continue to attend all community council meetings, Chief Superintendent Flynn, reaffirmed his commitment to community policing and stated that the Forth Valley approach had community policing at its heart. The establishment for the command area had now been agreed by Police Scotland and the deployment of resources, therein was his responsibility.

The committee then discussed the role of the police during the INEOS dispute at Grangemouth and sought clarification on how local priorities would be balanced against national directions.

The committee also discussed the influence of alcohol on unlawful behaviour and the relationship between the police service and the Licensing Board, highlighting the value of the local 'safe base' initiative.

Decision

The committee noted the report.