S51. 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. The report also included information on road collisions and the mapping of these incidents along with a paper on the proposed changes to the policing model operated across the Forth Valley division.

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 which covered the period from April 2013 to January 2014 and highlighted the performance of local policing across the Falkirk Council area in accordance with the local policing plan. He also provided an update on the ongoing Traffic Warden Review, the work being undertaken in relation to the review of public counter services and the standardisation of hours and confirmed that with regard to the police estate there were no plans to close any police offices.

The committee heard information on the Stop and Search tool used by the Police and how this has contributed to the increase in detection of certain types of crime.

In response to a question relating to multi agency meetings with local Elected Members, Chief Superintendent Flynn and Acting Chief Inspector Paterson advised that they would be happy to arrange for such meetings to take place.

The committee discussed the implications of the closure of the control room in Stirling with particular reference to the contingency arrangements in relation to the Grangemouth petro-chemical site. Chief Superintendent Flynn advised that Police Scotland has a multi-agency command at Grangemouth, but there was a need to ensure that the communications for policing were in place. He advised that the consolidation of the control room function would not have any effect on local policing as it would be the same local police dealing with issues as part of local policing teams. Members raised concern in relation to the loss of support staff and the implications for frontline services.

In response to a question in relation to residential housebreaking, Chief Superintendent Flynn and Acting Chief Inspector Paterson provided some further clarification on the reasons behind these acts and the people who can be responsible for them.

The committee then discussed the attendance of local community officers at community meetings and the lack of police reports which are being provided. Chief Superintendent Flynn gave an undertaking to have a standardised report produced which would be made available for community meetings and that community officers would endeavour where possible to attend such meetings.

The committee also discussed the ongoing Traffic Warden review, and the perception within the area that the Wardens have ceased to operate. Chief Superintendent Flynn advised that although there has been a reduction in the numbers of Wardens due to early retirement and voluntary severance there is still a service being provided. He also advised

that police officers still have a role to play with parking issues and can issue tickets when required.

The committee then heard a presentation from Detective Inspector David Mitchell on Serious and Organised Crime. The presentation related to the report which was submitted as part of the police performance report at appendix 4. Detective Inspector Mitchell provided an overview of the operation the Serious Organised Crime Task Force which was created by the Scottish Government and brings together the organisations involved in tackling Serious and Organised Crime. The committee also heard from Acting Chief Inspector Paterson who provided information on the work of an operation in the local area which directly related to a Serious and Organised Crime group.

Decision

The committee noted the report.