

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a city skyline with a diagonal beam of light. The top-right quadrant depicts a stag's head with large antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on wavy water. The bottom-right quadrant features a grizzly bear standing on its hind legs. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom contains the motto "A NE FOR A'".

Agenda Item 3

Minute

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee (External) held remotely on Thursday 7 October 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Councillors: David Aitchison
David Balfour
Jim Blackwood (convener)
Niall Coleman
David Grant
John McLuckie
Depute Provost Ann Ritchie

Councillors in attendance: Laura Murtagh, Public Protection Portfolio Holder

Officers: Neil Brown, General Manager, Falkirk Community Trust
Sophie Dick, Democratic Services Graduate
Jacquie McArthur, Economic Development Officer
Gayle McIntyre, Service Manager of Children's Services
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager
Pete Reid, Acting Head of Economic Development
Joanna Stewart, Housing Support Coordinator

Also Attending: Alan Gibson, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland
Craig Walker, Chief Inspector, Police Scotland

In accordance with section 43 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Convener had directed that the meeting would be conducted by video conference to allow remote attendance by elected members.

In accordance with section 50A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the public were excluded from this meeting as it was likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be a real and substantial risk to public health due to infection or contamination with coronavirus.

SE9. Apologies

No apologies were intimated.

SE10. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

SE11. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee (External) held on 19 August 2021 was approved.

SE12. Police Scotland – Follow up

The committee considered a report by the Chief Inspector which provided an update on matters raised by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 21 May 2021 during consideration of the Falkirk Area Performance Report by Police Scotland.

The report covered the following matters:-

- Wildlife Crime
- Road Safety/Bike Safety Courses
- Mobile Working
- User Experience Survey
- Police Scotland Service Centres
- Driving Licence Offences
- Drug Analysis/Trends
- Disorder/Anti-Social Behaviour Stats
- Covid Travel Guidance

The report did not include any information on the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), however the Chief Superintendent provided a verbal update. He stated that over 100 Heads of State would be in Scotland, he emphasised that the impact of this was not limited to Glasgow. In terms of the impact on Falkirk, communities would not be negatively impacted. The Chief Superintendent assured committee that plans had been finalised – the travelling of Heads of State was a major point as this would be around Central Scotland but he emphasised that Police Scotland were fully prepared. He stated that the police were aware of their responsibility to allow peaceful protest whilst enabling communities to carry out their day-to-day lives with minimal interruption. He explained that Police Scotland were aware of the possibility of protests, particularly at the INEOS site in Grangemouth, however, clarified that no violence would be tolerated. As World Leaders would be staying or travelling in the Forth Valley area, it was important actions were in place to mitigate disruption on motorways, particularly with what had occurred in London with climate change protests. The Chief Superintendent explained that no annual leave or training was allowed for the duration of COP26, officers with specialist skills to offer additional support had been recruited and demand had been reduced on services through non-critical back office functions stopping as well as Summary Courts during this period.

Members praised PC Laura Robertson, Wildlife Officer and PC Heather Campbell, Rural Crime Officer and suggested that their contact information should be readily available to the public given the increase in wildlife and livestock crime. Craig Walker explained that the public were able to contact their local officers and PC Robertson and PC Campbell would be able to offer their expertise and oversee issues to maintain consistency. In cases of unusual incidents, these officers would take lead, but their main purpose was to offer advice and guidance due to the scale of reporting.

Following a question about the definition of 'livestock worrying', Craig Walker explained that it covered the issue of dogs who, off leash, were running in fields causing distress or injury to livestock. This had been of particular relevance over the last 18 months due to the increased use of the countryside.

The committee noted the importance of encouraging pet owners to be mindful of their dogs when in fields, particularly due to the consequences of livestock worrying. The Chief Superintendent referred to the overall increase of dog ownership in the last 18 months which may have led to an increase in those who had a level of ignorance around their responsibilities. He explained that a national campaign would be launched in the near future which had a particular emphasis on lambs and the actions that should, or should not, be taken. In terms of local effort, Chief Inspector Walker could undertake work to promote awareness and education which would link in with the national campaign.

All six freshwater offences occurred at the Avon Bank Fishing Club in Polmont, members asked if this was the only place where this crime took place. The Chief Inspector stated that the level of this crime was unknown, possibly due to underreporting. Staff at the Avon Bank Fishing Club were aware of the crime and therefore reported, this may not be the instance elsewhere.

In terms of preventing freshwater offences, Chief Inspector Walker explained that it would be difficult. Education and police activity would be necessary but would be reliant on individuals reporting the crime or challenging the act.

Members referred to the potential implementation of Speed Awareness Schemes. They asked why these were more complex to introduce in Scotland compared to the rest of the UK and once implemented, could it be applied retrospectively to those who had current points against their license. The Chief Inspector stated he would refer back to committee with information regarding this.

The committee noted the increased use of bikes, particularly usage on the roads and suggested that 'Cycle Safe' signs could be situated around Falkirk, which was thought to be happening in Fife. Chief Superintendent Gibson stated he would have discussions with Fife Police/Council about their cycle initiative. He concurred that there has been an increase of cycling

which had led to a number of projects such as Operation Close Pass which allowed police officers to challenge drivers who did not give enough space whilst overtaking cyclists. Police Scotland had also started to allow cyclists to upload footage from the helmet cameras to support claims of drivers overtaking too closely – this allowed Police Scotland to identify individuals and had improved road safety. Furthermore, Chief Superintendent Gibson referred to the efforts on road safety education in schools.

The committee then asked what the appropriate action would be if group cyclists were cycling across the lane making it difficult for drivers to overtake safely. The Chief Superintendent explained that this may be related to cyclists wish to be safe on the road – making a greater presence on the road can equate to them feeling safer. He emphasised the importance to respect each other on the road, which was being promoted both in person and through social media. Chief Superintendent Gibson stated that education, respect and patience would be the best way to handle this situation. The Chief Inspector concurred with the necessity for both parties to respect each other. Both drivers and cyclists had to take responsibility for their actions. Both the Chief Superintendent and the Chief Inspector noted the debate that occurred on social media after a post about cyclist/drivers behaviour which enhanced the difficulty in solving problems.

Following a question on how successful the Biker Down course was, the Chief Inspector stated that he would liaise with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to provide information to committee.

Members then considered what the lifespan would be for Mobile Working devices and asked for clarity on plans for replacements. Chief Inspector Walker confirmed that there would be a lifespan on these commercially available devices and plans would have to be in place to resolve this. However, the current focus was on ensuring Police Scotland were receiving value from the devices. He recognised how quickly technology changed and therefore the details on when and what changes would occur were still to be determined.

The committee raised concerns regarding the Public Satisfaction Survey January 2021 – May 2021 results and sought clarity on what actions were in place to better public perception. The Chief Inspector emphasised that only 100 people were sampled per month which allowed for a small amount of negative feedback to have an influential impact and figures had been improving since March 2021. Chief Superintendent Gibson concurred with this point and emphasised that more than 100 people would be in contact with the police daily – although, it was vital officers reflected and learned from the survey. Chief Inspector Walker explained that some questions, such as ‘During the initial contact, how satisfied were you with the way you were treated by a staff member on the [CONTACT METHOD]’ were not specific to Falkirk. Questions such as ‘Do you feel you were adequately informed about the progress made with what you reported’ was a part of Chief Inspector Walker’s remit – actions were in place to ensure a 7-day follow-up contact post-report and regularly after that, when this had failed, he and his team

reacted. Chief Inspector Wilson recognised there were areas for improvement. Chief Superintendent Gibson also recognised that some follow-ups were not carried out in a timely manner as he reviewed compliance daily. He explained that the workload had increased over the last 18 months which was placing officers under great pressure, however, he acknowledged it was right to meet the expectations of the public.

Members then referred to Q1 of the Public Satisfaction Survey, 'You contacted the police using [CONTACT METHOD FROM SAMPLE]. How easy was it to contact them?' and noted the decline in satisfaction from May 2021 (77%) to July 2021 (56%). Chief Inspector Walker suggested that this particular sample in May may have experienced greater trouble contacting the police than the majority, but this would not be reflected in the statistics due to the random nature of the sample. He stated he was confident that the service provided in Forth Valley was of a high standard, but recognised members concern and assured that monitoring of figures would continue.

Following a question on whether the survey would return to being conducted over the phone, as concerns were raised that limiting it to online excluded parts of society, the Chief Inspector stated he would return to committee with more information. The Chief Superintendent stated he would echo these opinions when discussing the future methodology of the survey.

The committee focused on the 5.8% decrease of number of 101 calls (from 522,960 in 2020/21 to 491,976 in 2021/22) and suggested that this contradicted the increase of 1 minute 28 seconds in average call answer time (from 1 minute 57 seconds to 3 minutes 25 seconds in the same time period). It asked what the reason behind this was and if this would have any impact on people calling 999. Chief Superintendent Gibson explained that police are the service of last resort meaning that individuals have contacted them about irrelevant issues, such as pharmacy opening times or emergency plumbers. He recognised that the time to answer calls was unacceptable but assured that progress would be made. He continued to explain that absences were prevalent during the pandemic and peaked at 118 officers off absent across Forth Valley at one time, however, as normality returned this issue had diminished. The Chief Superintendent explained that the volume of calls did not reflect spikes in calls that 101 were facing – calls throughout the week were similar to the busiest days of the year such as New Year's Eve, therefore it would be difficult for call-handlers to cope with the volume, particularly with Covid-19 restrictions being in place. He finalised by inviting the committee to a call centre to see first-hand the work that officers carried out.

Following a question about if individuals were placed in a queueing system after the call was answered, similar to what happens with the Ambulance Service, the Chief Superintendent explained that in the police service, if the call was not answered in the prescribed time it would be relocated to another police service. He assumed that this would apply to the Ambulance Service as well but was unable to say for certain. Chief Inspector Walker clarified that when a call was answered, it would be a person on the line rather than

an automated service. This was due to the call-handler having to find out information and prioritise calls.

Members asked why, in some instances, 101 calls would cut out if they were not answered within a certain timeframe. They questioned if there would be queuing system in place that would stop this. Chief Inspector Walker said he was certain that the individual would be connected and placed in a queue but would come back with more information on how the queuing system worked.

The committee then focused on driving licence offences and asked if letters were sent in time to allow individuals to know about the DVLA retrospective 11-month extension. The Chief Inspector explained that letters may been received after an individual's expiry date due to other agencies being constrained from the pandemic.

Following a question on when a photo renewal must happen for a driving licence, Chief Inspector Walker stated once every 10 years – the expiry date for this and the overall licence both featured on the licence.

Members raised concern over an individual aged 17 who had offended 5 times during 2020/21 and questioned if any preventative steps were in place to minimise offending and what lessons had been learned from this instance. Chief Inspector Walker explained that any individual of this age would have a Concern Report submitted to a Concern Hub who would decide the best route of action for this individual based on their personal circumstances. An individual at this age may still be at school, therefore it would be appropriate to alert the school officer of these incidents as well as involve Children's Services to assist. He emphasised that the action taken was totally dependent on the individual and the specific details of the crime they have committed.

Members then suggested that children of school age were consuming drugs as well as being sold them directly and referred to Appendix 2 which stated 'ages at time of offence ranged between 15 years and 64 years'. They raised concern that the age may be younger than 15 and asked what actions were in place to handle this. The Chief Inspector encouraged the public report any incident and to not assume the police were aware. The prosecution of individuals was dependent on how much information police have and therefore it would be essential for the public to inform the police.

The committee asked if it was still standard procedure for Police Scotland to alert the Council about cases of individuals selling or producing drugs in their own homes. Chief Inspector Walker explained there was a Chief Liaison Officer who worked within the Council's housing department, whilst another officer worked within Police Scotland Forth Valley Division who were fully equipped with local knowledge and would inform senior members such as Chief Inspector Walker of background, what housing were doing, anti-social behaviour and so on. Furthermore, another officer worked within the Conflict Resolution Service who worked closely with other officers to inform them of

anti-social behaviour. He explained that it was complex when dealing with tenancies, however, steps were in place to inform the Council of any convictions which would impact on the individual's tenancy. The Chief Inspector stated he was happy to return to committee with more information about the role of these officers.

The discussion developed into members raising concern over the possibility of increased shoplifting committed by drug users and asked if this was relevant in Falkirk. If so, members wanted to know the impact this was having on the police service.

There had been an increase in Disorder/Anti-Social Behaviour Statistics from April 2019-March 2020 to April 2020-March 2021, for example 33% increase in number of complaints regarding disorder. The Chief Inspector confirmed that the rise was mainly due to neighbours reporting Covid-19 restriction breaches.

Following a question on whether there were any planned road closures in Falkirk due to COP26, the Chief Superintendent confirmed there were none at the present moment. If any events were to be planned locally, such as the STORM Puppet event planned for the first weekend in November, minor road closures may be put in place. In terms of movement of VIPs, many would require a large presence on the road due to security reasons and therefore many temporary closures may be required. He assured that any changes would be mindful to minimising impact.

The committee referred to protests that had been taking place in England in relation to the environment and raised concerns that the same may occur at the INEOS site or the Kelpies. Chief Superintendent Gibson assured committee that police in Falkirk had previous experience and know how to handle similar situations. He explained that regular practices happen at INEO in preparation for major incidents. He recognised that the protests were peaceful, but a balance would have to be struck between allowing people to exercise their right to protest and minimise disruption. The Chief Superintendent assured committee that specialist officers would be available to resolve situations as well as Protest Liaison Officers who were experts in speaking with and managing protestors.

Members then questioned if any plans were in place to assist emergency services in cases of road closures or protests. Chief Superintendent Gibson confirmed this was the case and communication would be open with other services to let them know what was going on through quick-action forums.

Following a question regarding a change of powers when handling protesters, Chief Superintendent was not aware of any upcoming legislative changes and explained that he was confident Police Scotland had enough power to handle these situations. Through activities through a range of facilities, police were well rehearsed at handling protests.

The committee asked for assurance for the public after the recent charge of two police officers murdering females. Chief Superintendent Gibson recognised the onus was on the police to assure the public – over the weekend prior to the committee, Police Scotland had publicised that if an individual was concerned in anyway about the legitimacy or motives of officers, they can request the control room through the radio the officer had on them. This would allow individuals to challenge officers in circumstances where they feel it would be appropriate. He highlighted that in Scotland, officers mostly worked in pairs which was contrastingly different from England which could offer comfort. Police Scotland were underway of changing their vetting system to now include further steps of vetting to ensure officers who showed concerning behaviour would be identified. Chief Inspector Walker echoed the previous points and added that locally, efforts had been made to ensure each officer was fully aware of expectations and any further guidance would be fully implemented. He stated matters like this were taken very seriously as any mistake could have a massive impact on public confidence. Both officers expressed their outrage for events like this and assured that this feeling was mutual amongst most officers.

Decision

The Committee noted the report.

SE13. Following the Public Pound: Falkirk Community Trust

The committee considered a report by Neil Brown providing the Committee with an update of the performance of Falkirk Community Trust (the Trust) in line with Following the Public Pound guidance and Council procedures, the report covers the performance of the Trust between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021.

Members asked what was causing Trust staff members job-related anxiety, to which Mr Brown suggested anxieties could be related to the forthcoming TUPE Transfer of staff - at the current time, exact numbers of staff joining Falkirk Council had not been confirmed. He explained the uncertainties and change related to the pandemic could have been a further cause – he noted that the Trust had managed to open all facilities since the second closure earlier this year. However, the combination of upcoming change and the impact of Covid-19 had led to a sense of uncertainty across all Trust staff.

The committee stated that due to the closure of Trust facilities caused by the pandemic, scrutinising the performance and operation of the Trust was difficult.

Members referred to the increase of visits to the Helix, which hit 239,179 in Quarter 4 of 2020/21, and Muiravonside Country Park, which had 34,036 visits in Quarter 4 although exceeded visits in all four quarters of 2020/21 – they asked how maintenance of these places would be undertaken in the future. Mr Brown explained that there were no current plans with the Council

to close any sites or services provided at the point of transfer. The budget for facilities would be considered in March 2022. He explained there would be new services that the Council would be taking on, such as the Helix and opportunities would be created with the merging of the Trust and the Council.

Decision

The Committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by the Trust in meeting Council priorities.

SE14. Following the Public Pound – Public Protection

The committee considered a report by Gayle McIntyre and Joanna Stewart providing information under the Following the Public Pound arrangements for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 for the Council's public protection outcome including alcohol, drugs and community justice.

Gayle McIntyre summarised the Following the Public Pound Annual Reporting Statement 2020/21 for SACRO Youth Justice.

The committee questioned the reasoning behind Falkirk Council contributing c.1% of the organisations budget and how this compared to other local authorities. Ms McIntyre explained that the funding was not ringfenced and was used for early intervention and youth services. She explained that SACRO was a national service, but the report covered was Falkirk specifically commissioned the organisation for, therefore each Council would have their own strategies.

Members noted that SACRO's Youth Justice services worked with 53 cases in Falkirk, they asked how this compared to prior years and how successful they were. Ms McIntyre explained that 53 cases was aligned with previous years and as the service provided was small, there had to be a minimum of 50 cases per year. She stated that regular discussions were held in the hopes of increasing service to help more young people.

Following members suggestion that scrutiny was hindered by lack of national comparisons in terms of contribution or level of engagement, the Director of Children's Services explained that once funding had been granted to SACRO as a national body, local authorities would then procure services required to them. Following a council-wide review of external funding 3 years prior, the Council and SACRO came to an agreement to engage a minimum of 50 children in the service. He further explained that if the number of children involved in the criminal justice system increased, it would then be appropriate to review whether to increase or decrease this service. In terms of scrutinising, Mr Naylor suggested members should evaluate success, engagement levels and types of actions taken to minimise re/offending.

Members requested a follow-up report to which the Director of Children's Services stated he would be happy to come back with an overview report on the overall funding of SACRO including comparisons with other local authorities' contributions. In a future report, a year-by-year comparison of number of families engaging in the service would be available. He explained that measuring success was difficult due to the nature of the service being entirely individual, it was important for members to evaluate success on a scale.

The committee recognised the difficulty of measuring success, particularly when early intervention had eliminated the chances of offending. The Director of Children's Services stated that the report should include a breakdown of age groups within the 8–18-year group and suspected many would be older. With much of the engagement stemming from older children, a change in approach to target younger children and help intervention at a younger age could be appropriate. The Service Manager of Children's Services confirmed that within the targeted age group, the majority were at the older end of the spectrum and male – new legislation was forthcoming which would adjust the age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12 and explained that discussions were ongoing on how to provide services for those within this age bracket.

Members then referred to the minimum of 50 cases and questioned if there was a maximum number of children who could participate. Ms McIntyre explained that numbers could increase although this may negatively impact on the quality of service being provided, especially if funding were to reduce. Although, there was currently no upper limit.

Gayle McIntyre stated that the current referral method was under review to allow for any service to make a referral based on reasonable grounds, where they would be concerned about their behaviour. She continued that the hope would be to include more services in tackling young person's showing this behaviour and offer them a range of services.

Joanna Stewart summarised the Following the Public Pound Annual Reporting Statement 2020/21 for Committed to Ending Abuse.

Following a question about whether mother and children were given priority over housing to remain together after a split in the family, the Housing Support Coordinator explained this situation had put pressure on the wider role of the Council. Personal circumstances were a ruling factor on whether an individual would approach services for help, many still was afraid – risk assessments were central to allowing a person to leave their home, and once they had, a safe plan would be in place. She explained that new legislation would remove perpetrators from a house and work was being undertaken to promote this legislation.

The committee then asked how the pandemic had impacted the service, particularly with the inability to meet individuals face to face. Ms Stewart stated that Committed to Ending Abuse quickly adapted to homeworking, but

when necessary, did visit individuals. As a way to adapt to the new ways of working, Save Lives gave additional funding for IT equipment to enable service delivery remotely.

The Portfolio Holder of Public Protection commended the report and recognised the work Committed to Ending Abuse did for men as well as women.

Decision

The Committee acknowledged the progress by the external organisations in meeting Council Priorities and requested a report which provided background and context to the funding of SACRO together with a breakdown of the demographics of the 53 cases referred to the organisation.

SE15. Following the Public Pound – Falkirk Towns Ltd

The committee considered a report by Pete Reid providing information under the Following the Public Pound arrangements for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2021 for Falkirk Towns Ltd and the Safer Streets Initiative (Taxi Marshalls and SafeBase).

The committee asked if taxi marshalling had returned to the same demand prior to the pandemic to which the Economic Development Officer explained that levels remained very low in terms of people in the town, however, as normality returned, numbers were gradually rising. She stated that taxi marshalling had returned to Friday and Saturday nights, but reviews would be kept underway to identify any changes in demand.

Following on from a question regarding whether there were enough staff members to handle increased demand, Ms McArthur confirmed there was enough staff members and there were no immediate concerns around resources – it was essential that preparation was in place. The Acting Head of Economic Development explained that work was being done closely with Police Scotland, especially with the upcoming COP26 event which may lead to smaller events taking place in the town centre. Furthermore, he clarified that collaboration was taking place with the Liaison Officer in any discussion.

Members raised concern over future arrangements around Park Street Community Centre and if SafeBase would have to relocate. Ms McArthur was aware of the possible closure of Park Street Community Centre and stated other options were being considered. Discussions were being held with FirstBus to consider a mobile facility.

The committee noted that there had been suggestions of increased theft and asked how businesses felt Police Scotland were responding to this. Mr Reid emphasised the close-knit relationship held with the police, particularly when issues did arise. He explained that Retail Radio Link and CCTV were vital

tools when tackling crime in the town centre. Ms McArthur noted the increase of anti-social behaviour, drug use and crime, however, the Council were working closely with businesses to offer safety through mechanisms such as the Retail Radio Link and Street Ambassadors. Exclusion Orders were in place to exclude members of the public showing offensive behaviour from entering the town, to which Ms McArthur assured had a positive impact. She further noted that help was not limited to businesses, those who lived in the town centre were also offered help.

The committee requested an update on the installation of public Wi-Fi and took particular interest on the development of an end-page which would advertise local businesses. The Acting Head of Economic Development confirmed that significant investment had been placed in an end-page, across all district centres through the Town Centre Capital Fund delivered by the Council and Falkirk Delivers. The Economic Development Officer echoed Mr Reid and confirmed that public Wi-Fi in Stenhousemuir would be launched in the near future. She further explained that in Falkirk town centre, a page would launch on a user's phone outlining events being held - the plan was to mirror this across other district centres with the purpose was to improve the user's experience and offer businesses the opportunity to start trading online. In terms of other relevant events, Ms McArthur promoted the introduction of Local Gift Cards which would allow for greater spending on local businesses as well as the launch of the Christmas Campaign – a distinction from previous years was the campaign would span over 4-5 weeks to reduce high volumes of people congregating in one place. With the upcoming COP26 event, a local event 'CHOP26' was created which meant that individual safety was prioritised as well as ensuring the correct partnerships were utilised to encourage the recovery of Falkirk town centre.

The Economic Development Officer added that foot-fall sensors had been installed into the town centre to avoid relying on anecdotal information – this information would be used as supporting evidence for the impact of intervention projects.

Following on from a request for more information on the Gift Card scheme, Ms McArthur stated that there were plans to extend the Gift Cards across Falkirk – funding had limited the scheme to only Falkirk and district town centres, however, due to its success, trading in the pandemic was enabled and allowed individuals to support local businesses.

Members sought for clarification on whether the number of taxis available met demands for the night-time economy to which the Economic Development Officer stated many taxi drivers had not returned after lockdown, however, work was ongoing with the Taxi Forum to resolve this. The Acting Head of Economic Development offered a report which would compare the number of taxi drivers, either self-employed or working in a business, from prior to the pandemic till now.

The committee referred to the Free after Three promotional initiative, which allowed the public to use car parks free of charge after 3pm in hopes of

boosting the local economy. It asked how effective it had been. Mr Reid explained that efforts had been made to allow flexibility on ticketing and charging due to the possible alteration of parking patterns since the pandemic. Ms McArthur stated a parking survey review was undertaken which led to the decision of keeping the Free after Three and the introduction of 50p parking charge for 30 minutes as a response to individuals being in the town for a short period of time. She continued that the Free after Three initiative was used by parents after they have collected their children from school; many businesses had praised the scheme as they had benefitted from it as well.

The Portfolio Holder for Public Protection stated she would also be engaging with the ongoing work related to taxi marshalling.

Decision

The Committee noted the report.