

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 16 MAY 2013 at 10.30 AM.**

**COUNCILLORS:**

William Buchanan  
Allyson Black  
Charles MacDonald  
Brian McCabe  
John McLuckie  
Baillie Joan Paterson  
Provost Pat Reid (Convener)

**OFFICERS:**

Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Information Technology and Improvement  
Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer (in the chair items S1, S2 and part of S3)  
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer  
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager  
Antonia Sobieraj, Committee Services Officer

**S1. APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

**S2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

**S3. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER AND DEPUTE CONVENER**

Nominations for the positions of convener and depute convener were invited.

**Decision**

**Provost Reid was appointed convener of the Scrutiny Committee and the post of depute convener was unfilled.**

Provost Reid thereafter assumed the chair for the remaining business.

**S4. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT**

The Scrutiny Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive summarising the scrutiny arrangements under the new decision making structure and proposing that a workshop be as held the first stage in the development of the scrutiny plan.

In determining its decision making model, Council had agreed to form a scrutiny committee, its principal role being to establish, implement and oversee the Council's scrutiny plan. In carrying out this function, the Committee would, in turn, set up Scrutiny Panels to scrutinise specific subject areas identified in the plan. The Committee also has responsibility receiving "following the public pound" reports and scrutinising the performance of the local police and fire services and Falkirk Community Trust.

In order to develop a scrutiny plan for recommendation to Council, it was proposed that a workshop for members would be held before the Committee meeting in June from which it was suggested that a scrutiny topic could be identified for the purpose of carrying out a pilot scrutiny process over the summer recess.

### **Decision**

**That a workshop open to all members would be held prior to the next meeting of the Committee to consider potential areas for scrutiny.**

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: FEEDBACK FROM SCRUTINY WORKSHOP**  
**Meeting: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 13 JUNE 2013**  
**Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its inaugural meeting on 16 May 2013, this Committee agreed that a workshop should be organised to allow all members the opportunity to discuss areas for future scrutiny and the manner in which scrutiny would be undertaken. The workshop took place on 31 May, 2013 and was attended by 10 members drawn from all of the political groups represented on the Council. This report provides feedback from the workshop to the Committee and, in particular, addresses some of the suggestions made by members during the course of the workshop.

**2. ISSUES ADDRESSED AT THE WORKSHOP**

- 2.1 The discussion at the workshop covered four areas:-
1. the place of the Scrutiny Committee within the broader decision-making structure;
  2. the future role or replacement for the Best Value Forum;
  3. the potential subject areas for scrutiny; and
  4. the manner in which scrutiny would be carried out.

**3. THE PLACE OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WITHIN THE DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURE**

- 3.1 The effect of the Council's decisions on structures is to give the Scrutiny Committee three main roles. The first is to develop and implement the Council's annual Scrutiny Plan. The second is to receive reports on the effectiveness of financial support to external organisations provided under the Following the Public Pound arrangements, to receive performance reports from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and to receive performance reports from the Community Trust. The third role was to scrutinise any matter referred to the Committee by the Executive.

- 3.2 Members expressed some concern at the lack of flexibility in the remit of the Committee as described above. In particular, the question was raised of how an issue which came to light during the course of the year could be addressed by the Committee. A suggestion was made that there would be benefit in the Council leaving some flexibility within the Scrutiny Plan to allow the Committee itself the opportunity to determine at least one of the subject areas for detailed scrutiny. The question was also raised of the scope for flexibility to allow the Committee the opportunity to consider issues outwith the scope of the Scrutiny Plan.
- 3.3 The Scheme of Delegation agreed by Council already gives some scope for flexibility. It would be open for Council to take up the suggestion that the Scrutiny Committee is empowered to choose part of the content of the Scrutiny Plan. The issue of raising matters outwith the scope of the Plan is more problematic in the context of the current Scheme. Some degree of flexibility may be available where the Committee wished to consider an issue during the course of the year with a view to considering whether it would be a suitable subject for recommendation to Council for the following year's Plan.

#### **4. THE BEST VALUE FORUM**

- 4.1 There was general agreement among Members that there were many positive aspects of the Best Value Forum which should be retained in any replacement. The positive aspects of the Forum identified by Members centred on two areas. The first of these was that it was open to all Members of the Council to contribute to. The second was that the fact that it did not take place in public allowed for a more free and open exchange of views between Members and for more open responses from Officers to points raised by Members.
- 4.2 It was noted that at the last meeting of Council a suggestion had been made in the Chief Executive's report that to avoid potential overlap and duplication between the Best Value Forum and the Scrutiny Committee, that there would be some benefit in considering a standing Scrutiny Panel to monitor service performance. Some concern was expressed at this suggestion in that it may exclude the wider membership of the Council from consideration of matters currently considered by the Best Value Forum.
- 4.3 There is scope for a replacement for the Best Value Forum to be established which reports to the Scrutiny Committee and which meets many of the requirements set out by Members at the workshop. A Standing Panel on performance could receive the same form of information on performance reporting currently considered by the Forum. As Council has already agreed that the Scrutiny Panels are not formally constituted as Sub-Committees, the Standing Panel could continue to meet in private allowing for the full and frank discussion valued by Members. The Scheme of Delegation to Committee agreed by Council limits the membership of a Scrutiny Panel to five. It would be possible, however, to form a "core" membership of five but to allow any Member to attend.

## **5. SUBJECTS FOR SCRUTINY**

- 5.1 A short list of subjects for scrutiny was prepared by officers in advance of the workshop, purely as suggestions. The list is appended to this report. It is fair to say that the contents were not met with a spontaneous burst of enthusiasm. Additional suggestions brought forward by Members as potential scrutiny areas included:-
1. the process of procurement and contract monitoring;
  2. the adequacy of consultation with the public and community engagement more generally;
  3. schools capacities; and
  4. the role of Community Councils.
- 5.2 All of the areas suggested would appear to offer good scope for scrutiny. The example of consultation with the public is a useful one. The Council adopted a Community Participation Strategy in 2011. A Scrutiny Panel examining the implementation of the Strategy would allow for the assessment of whether the expected outcomes had been achieved. It was acknowledged by Members at the workshop that a focus on outcomes within the work of the Scrutiny Panels would be important.

## **6. SCRUTINY GUIDELINES**

- 6.1 The discussion at the workshop highlighted the difference between the scrutiny currently undertaken at scrutiny committees and the more detailed process which would require to be adopted by Scrutiny Panels under the new system. It was acknowledged that the length of each Scrutiny Panel was likely to vary depending on the subject being considered but it was recognised that each Panel would be likely to meet over a number of meetings. There was discussion on the balance in such meetings between public and private sessions and it was recognised that there was room for both. For instance, the meeting of the Panel at which the work of the Panel was scoped and planned might be private whereas sessions where evidence was sought could be open to the public. The Panel would be reporting to the Scrutiny Committee and it would need to be clear from its report what the reasons were for it making its recommendations. Members agreed that the value of a report from a Panel would depend on the recommendations being evidence based.
- 6.2 Further discussion took place on the best way to develop the plan and the guidelines on undertaking a scrutiny process. There was general agreement that there would be benefit in recommending to Council that a pilot scrutiny process was undertaken over the summer period on a subject to be recommended by the Committee to Council. This would assist in assessing the time and resources required to conduct a successful Scrutiny Panel. This in turn could help to inform the recommendations made to Council on the content of the draft Scrutiny Plan. As far as timescale was concerned, the aim would be to recommend the Scrutiny Plan to the Council by the September meeting in order to allow the Scrutiny Panels to start their work over the following Council session.

- 6.3 If the Committee is minded to suggest a pilot scrutiny topic to be dealt with over the recess, there would be benefit in considering also at this stage the make up of the Panel that would carry out that particular scrutiny process and the timescale within which the Panel would be expected to complete its work. This would enable work to start immediately following the Council decision and for a progress report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on 8 August 2013.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that the Committee agrees:-**

- (a) to recommend to Council that a pilot Scrutiny Panel is formed in advance of the Scrutiny Plan being agreed; and**
- (b) to determine and thereafter recommend the subject area for the Panel and the membership thereof.**

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**CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER**

Date: 4 June, 2013

Contact Name: Colin Moodie – Ext: 6097

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

## Appendix 1

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**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
ROLE AND REPORTING SCHEDULE  
Meeting: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
Date: 13 JUNE 2013  
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Falkirk Council provides support to arms-length and external organisations (ALEOs) to provide important services to the public, or to provide wider social benefits such as employment opportunities, which are related to the Council's Corporate priorities. Support can be financial but can also take the form of non-cash support for example, premises, equipment and Council employees' time. During the period 2012-2013, the total value of support allocated to ALEOs was £5.6million.
- 1.2 ALEOs are often voluntary or charitable organisations, and generally will be able to provide a better range or quality of service, or to provide services that would not otherwise be provided. The common purpose is usually to offer a wider range of services, often in conjunction with other public organisations, and to provide joined-up services.
- 1.3 To ensure that public money is used properly and achieves value for money, it must be possible to trace funds from the Council to where they are ultimately spent – in other words, to “follow the public pound” across organisational boundaries. This means there is proper accountability for public funds used to deliver services, irrespective of the means of service delivery.
- 1.4 At the outset, the Council must be clear about its reasons for its involvement with any ALEO, the extent of its financial commitment and how the ALEOs performance will be monitored, both financially and on service. In addition, Council should also be aware of the level of financial and reputation risk associated with providing support. The risk rating should be factored into the monitoring and reporting of the service to be provided.
- 1.5 Falkirk Council developed procedures to enable Services to assess and monitor support to ALEOs. The procedures were developed in line with ‘The Code of Guidance on Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound’, which was published by COSLA and the Accounts Commission in 1996, and became a mandatory requirement in 2005.

**2. THE ROLE OF ELECTED MEMBERS**

- 2.1 In line with Financial Regulations, all support provided to ALEOs which has a total value of over £20,000, or has a value of between £10,000 and £20,000, but is assessed as being



high risk to the Council, must be approved by Members on an annual basis. This is generally done within the Council's budget setting process.

**2.2** A robust framework for providing support and monitoring to ALEOs is in place. Council Officers are required to undertake a financial and risk assessments, which considers the ALEO's governance structure, financial management and ability to deliver outcomes. A risk rating of high, medium or low is derived from this assessment. Officers are required to develop a monitoring framework to reflect the rating and a Joint Working Agreement is then put in place to govern the agreement.

**2.3** In addition, Services are required to provide Following the Public Pound reports to Elected Members on an annual basis, which provide information about each ALEO in receipt of support. In the new governance structure these reports are presented to Scrutiny Committee. All reports should present Members with sufficient information to allow them to scrutinise:

- The level of funding /support provided to each ALEO and how this is being used;
- The reason for entering into an agreement with each ALEO;
- The extent to which the ALEO is delivering services or projects which help us achieve Council priorities;
- The extent to which performance standards are being met and outcomes achieved;
- Whether the service should continue to be provided by an external body or whether better value for money could be achieved via in-house delivery;
- The risk arising from working with individual ALEOs, in terms of governance, finance and performance and the measures that we have in place to mitigate these risks; and
- Any potential landscape changes that could affect the need for the service or the method of service delivery in the future.

**2.4** A full list of ALEOs which currently receive support and should be subject to Member scrutiny is attached as Appendix 1. It is proposed that Following the Public Pound reports be scheduled as follows:

<b>Scrutiny Committee Date</b>	<b>Service</b>
8 August 2013	Education Services
12 September 2013	Corporate & Neighbourhood Services Development Services
10 October 2013	Social Work Services

**2.5** It is proposed that all reports will be presented to Scrutiny Committee in a consistent format. This will comprise a cover report providing information about the overall Service allocation followed by a progress statement for each ALEO. Elected Members will be invited to scrutinise each and are able to select from the following options for each ALEO:

- Approve report and acknowledge progress towards meeting Council priorities;
- Request further information on specific aspects of each ALEO report;
- Request action with follow-up for subsequent Scrutiny Committee consideration.

- 2.5 It should be noted that performance monitoring reports relating to Falkirk Community Trust, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will also be presented to Scrutiny Committee. These are subject of separate reports to the Scrutiny Committee.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 In order for Falkirk Council to comply with guidance set out by COSLA and the Accounts Commission's 'Code of Guidance on Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound', Elected Members must ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for monitoring the financial and service performance of ALEOs. This would normally be done by way of an annual report to committee. The proposed process set out within this paper, allows full compliance and also ensures that Members are able to ensure value for money in line with Council priorities.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are asked to:**

- 4.1 **Acknowledge the role Members have to 'follow the public pound'; and**  
4.2 **Consider the schedule set out within the paper with regard to reporting to Scrutiny Committee.**

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**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

Date: 30 May 2013

Ref: ABC0613FC - Following the public pound

Contact Name: Fiona Campbell

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

'Code of Guidance on Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound' 1996,  
COSLA/Account Commission.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506260 and ask for Lesley MacArthur.

## Appendix 1

### Corporate and Neighbourhood Services

Signpost Time 4 Us Project	15,000
AXIS (Barnardos)	33,724
SACRO	46,104
Sport 4 Youth	38,637
Central Scotland Racial Equality Council	15,200
Forth Valley Family Support	20,000
Action Group	90,000
Falkirk Bid District - Taxi marshalling	20,000
Denny Community Support Group	22,000
Falkirk & District Women's Aid	244,170
Linkwide - OPAP	66,495
G'mouth & Bo'ness CAB	153,611
Denny & Dunipace CAB	112,462
Armed Forces Project - Denny CAB	20,000
Falkirk CAB	196,319
MacMillam Money Matters	50,000
CVS Falkirk & District (Core)	132,177

Bo'ness Fair	30429
	<b>1,306,328</b>

### Education Services

Cluaran - Watling Lodge (Barnardos)	222,710
New Beginnings (Barnardo's)	192,341
CLASP - Camelon & Larbert Aberlour	315,162
Bo'ness Family Centre (Barnardos)	314,605
Langlees Family Centre (Aberlour)	225,012
Braes Family Centre (One Parent Families Scotland)	136,064
Home Start Denny	29,488
Denny Community Support Group	29,536
Kersiebank Community Project	9,897
Dennyloanhead Community Hall Ltd	12,561
The Powerstation	10,620
Worker Education Association	49,635
	<b>1,547,631</b>

### Social Work Services

Cluaran (Barnardos)	465,239
Children's Rights: Who Cares Scotland	27,970
Children's Rights: Quarriers	86,200
Signpost Time 4 Us Project	30,000
Axis (Barnardos)	110,952
SACRO	81,088
LAC Psychologist	84,500
Independent Living Association	29,604
Princess Royal Trust for Carers	141,898
WRVS Meals-on-Wheels	10,400
Falkirk & District Assoc for Mental Health	177,777
Forth Valley Sensory Centre	56,470
Alzheimer Scotland	63,219
Open Secret	149,446
Central Scotland Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre	15,689
	<b>1,530,452</b>

**Development Services**

Falkirk Town Centre Management	188,309
Visit Scotland	43,503
CSFT Area Programme	22,772
Falkirk Environment Trust	27,750
	<b>282,334</b>

**Previously Community Services**

Sport Central	20,637
Scottish Railway Preservation Society	48,451
Dobbie Hall Trust	14,356
	<b>83,444</b>

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY**  
**Meeting: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 13 JUNE 2013**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 As members are aware, one of the key functions of the scrutiny committee is to scrutinise the Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the delivery of their annual plans, as approved by the Environment and Community Safety Committee on the 19 March 2013.
- 1.2 In order to carry out this remits, it is proposed that each organisation would report to Members on a quarterly basis and would present an update on current deployment and performance information. Each of the organisations has prepared a draft template which sets out the proposed format of their reporting, along with the information they will be presenting as part of this scrutiny. These are attached to this report for information. Given this is the first time for such scrutiny, both organisations are mindful that Members will have their own thoughts on the content and style of reports. As such, the styles and content attached will evolve over time and in response to Members needs.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the two chief officers for this area, David Flynn, Police Scotland and Gary Laing, Local Senior Officer Scottish Fire and Rescue service, would report at the following meetings:
  - 6 August
  - 14 November
  - February 2014 TBC
- 1.4 To support this new scrutiny process, it is proposed that for the first meeting, an introductory pack is prepared that includes a range of relevant information for each scrutiny member. This would include the approved plan, the guidance on scrutiny prepared by the Government and some other key background information.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee note the proposed arrangements for scrutinising Police and Fire Services and the proposed structure and contents of those reports.**

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**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

Date: 4 June 2013

Ref: ABC0613FC – Police and Fire Scrutiny

Contact Name: Fiona Campbell

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Reports to Environment and Community Safety Committee – 19 March 2013. Annual Police and Fire Plans.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506004 and ask for Fiona Campbell.



**SCOTTISH**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

*Report to:*

**The Chief Executive and Falkirk Council Scrutiny  
Committee**

***SUBJECT: LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2013 FOR FALKIRK COUNCIL  
PERFORMANCE REPORTING.***

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2013 for Falkirk Council was formally agreed by the Falkirk Council Environmental and Community Safety Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2013.
- 1.2 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 Section 41H states that, *Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) must give to a local authority such information or reports relating to the carrying out of SFRS's functions in the authority's area (including reports given by reference to any local fire and rescue plan in force for the area) as the authority may reasonably request.*
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to outline proposals for the reporting of performance to the Chief Executive and Falkirk Council Scrutiny Committee, against the Falkirk Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2013.

**2. PERFORMANCE REPORTING**

- 2.1 It is proposed that:

2.1.1 The Chief Executive and Falkirk Council Scrutiny Committee will receive a performance report on a quarterly basis, following the completion of internal quality assurance of incident data by SFRS.

2.1.2 The quarterly report will cover the following areas, which align to the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2013 for Falkirk:

**Response Activity**

- Accidental Dwelling Fires.
- Fire Fatalities
- Fire Casualties.
- Fires in Non domestic properties
- Deliberate Dwelling fires
- Deliberate Secondary Fires.
- Road Traffic Collisions
- Road Traffic Collision fatalities/ Casualties
- Unwanted Fire Signals

**Additional activity performance data available**

- Other Primary Fires
- Violence to Crews
- Incidents Involving Drugs or Alcohol
- Incidents caused by Smoking Materials
- Special Services

**Protection Activity**

- Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006 audits

**Prevention Activity**

- Home Safety Visits (HSVs)
- Community engagement visits and events.

2.1.3 Performance data will be provided, where possible, per ward level.

2.1.4 Direct comparison of performance data will be measured against the same quarter of the previous year.

2.1.5 The use of three-year trend graphs will depict short to medium term performance.



### **3. BENCHMARKING**

- 3.1 It is recognised as best practise to benchmark fire and rescue service activity against outcomes for SFRS and another local authority area, similar in size, population and social & economic profile as Falkirk. Therefore, it is proposed to benchmark performance against SFRS and the West Lothian Council area.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The Chief Executive and Falkirk Council Scrutiny Committee is invited to:  
Consider and make any comment in relation to the proposed quarterly performance report format.

**Gary Laing  
Local Senior Officer  
Falkirk and West Lothian  
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

**29<sup>rd</sup> May 2013**

## FALKIRK COUNCIL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Subject: FALKIRK AREA COMMAND PERFORMANCE REPORT**  
**Meeting: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**Date: AUGUST**  
**Author: REPORT BY LOCAL POLICE COMMANDER**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight matters in the Area Command such as emerging trends and threats or particular successes and difficulties.
- 1.2 The Falkirk Policing Performance Scrutiny Report table contains the current information on performance against key performance indicators. This covering report provides complementary information to that in the table to present a rounded picture of issues affecting policing in Falkirk Council area.
- 1.3 The format of the report generally follows that of the Local Policing Plan priorities (eg Violence/Disorder & ASB, Serious Crime, Domestic Abuse etc) as they appear on the Scrutiny Report table.
- 1.4 **NB The content in this version is provided to show how future reports would be structured and is based upon data from a single month. The comments below are therefore illustrative only as the restricted data available from a very short time period does not permit full and proper analysis and assessment of the issues.**

### **2. TRENDS**

- 2.1 The performance indicators used in the table are a mix of those which are reported on across all operational divisions and those which reflect the objectives in the Falkirk Local Policing Plan. The local plan indicators are shown as emboldened in the table. The indicators reported nationally also provide valuable information on local performance as they fit comfortably under the six local priority headings.
- 2.2 Of the 21 local plan indicators for which data is available, 15 show positive performance whilst six show reduced levels. The data shows that the majority (5/6) of reduced performance relates to drops in detection rates, whilst about 70% (10/15) of improvement can be seen in reductions in the numbers of crimes and road collision injuries.
- 2.3 The long-term downward trend in crimes and offences involving **Anti-Social Behaviour, disorder and vandalism** has continued over the reporting period. This is reflected, for example in the 10% drop in the number of incidents of disorder reported to the police (1036 to 929).

- 2.4 There was also a welcome reduction across those categories of **violent crime** which are reported in the table.
- 2.5 A focused effort against the **misuse of drugs** has seen a rise in the number of persons charged with the supply, production or cultivation of illegal substances.
- 2.6 **Crimes of dishonesty (group 3)** have reduced against both the previous year and the 5 year average, with a particular drop in reports of motor vehicle crime (-54%). There was, however, a noticeable rise in cases of fraud from 16 to 32. The detection rate for acquisitive crime remained steady at about 50%, which showed a slight improvement on previous performance. Effort has been directed towards known repeat offenders, with early intervention reducing the likelihood of a series of crimes being committed.
- 2.7 The number of **domestic abuse incidents** (133) shows a drop against the previous year (125) and continues the recent trend of reductions in the numbers of such incidents reported to police. This issue has been given particular emphasis within Forth Valley Division and measures including intervention, enforcement and target profiling have been applied successfully.
- 2.8 **Road Policing and Road Crime** are being addressed within the new structure of a Forth Valley Divisional Road Policing Unit supplemented by the national Trunks Road Policing Group which covers activity on key main routes. The number of road collisions (21 to 18) and people killed or seriously injured (4 to 3) both show reductions. Tragically, one collision resulted in the death of a teenage boy. Focused effort on addressing the potential causes of collision such as speeding and use of mobile phones while driving have led to increased detections under these categories.
- 2.9 One of the objectives under the priority of **Protecting the Public** is to reduce the levels of **crimes of indecency** and these have decreased from 12 during the reporting period last year to 10 in this year. Enquiries into such crimes are often protracted and the low detection rates shown presently will improve as enquiries are completed. Work is ongoing to maintain awareness of issues of personal safety and potential vulnerability. Levels of offending by individuals who are strangers to the victim remain low.
- 2.10 Another objective under the above heading is to respond to **hate crimes and offences**, and the rates for detecting offenders remains high at almost 80%. This reflects the importance placed on addressing this issue, and work in detecting offenders is complemented by the provision of assistance and guidance to victims.
- 2.11 **Community Confidence and Engagement** remain at the heart of local policing, and the **number of complaints about the police** and the nature of such complaints can be a measure of how well this is being achieved. The number has reduced for this reporting period (4 to 2) and no trends in respect of the type of behaviour complained about are currently discernible.

### **3. RISKS AND THREATS**

3.1 Some of the risks and threats which continue to present are:

- Metal theft
- Skimming devices in Automated Teller Machines
- Bogus collection/theft of "charity" clothing
- Child neglect
- Local impact of serious organised crime groups
- Changes/trends in drugs supply

By their nature, these remain longer-term threats and Forth Valley Division continues to focus on intervention and enforcement to address them.

3.2 Issues which emerged in the previous reporting period were an increase in offensive weapons charges and a larger number of domestic abuse target profiles.

3.3 The situation in respect of offensive weapons was monitored and most recent figures show a 31% reduction in such charges which indicates that the previous peak was an anomaly which was not maintained.

3.4 The larger number of domestic abuse target profiles resulted from the application of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence (DASH) checklist across the Force area. This process continues to be applied and domestic abuse remains a priority area of business within the Public Protection Unit.

3.5 Newly emerging issues are bullying and sexual exploitation on social media networks; threats of overdose/death from polydrug use; and fraud with particular emphasis on internet fraud. Information on these issues will be provided at the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

### **4. RECENT OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

4.1 This section of the report provides brief details of any operational matters within Falkirk Area Command which presented a challenge for Forth Valley Division or which were of particular interest. Information on recent incidents which occurred since the production of this report will be provided by way of a verbal report at the meeting.

Police Scotland

Falkirk Area – Performance Information 2013 - 14

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour (Local Policing Plan objectives <b>emboldened</b> )_							Linked Single Outcome Agreement Priorities
							Growing Business and Prosperous People
							Young People Who Are Confident and Successful
							Safer Communities
							Healthier People
No.	Performance Indicator	April 2013	April 2012	Victims	% Change	3/5 Year Average	Context and Actions/Response
1	Total No Group 1: Crimes of Violence	11	13	2 fewer	-15.4%	15	<p><b>Context:</b> Whilst there are fluctuations across the Area Command, the general trend is a reduction in the serious crimes of violence categorized in Group 1, with figures at present showing a 15.4% reduction on the previous year and a 26% reduction on the 5 year average. 9 of the 11 crimes have been detected to date (82%) which is in line with the high detection rates regularly achieved for these types of crime. Victims and offenders are often known to each other, and, where a weapon has been used, this tends to be an article acquired at the location of the crime rather than something carried with the specific intent of using it in the incident.</p> <p><b>Standard Actions :</b> Group1 crimes of violence are scrutinised on a daily basis and at present there are no clear trends of concern. The Criminal Investigation Department has primary responsibility for the investigation of such incidents.</p> <p><b>Further Response:</b> Assistance is being provided in respect of one of the outstanding crimes by the Major Investigation Team (MIT) which is a regional resource based at Tullibody Police Office, and providing specialist investigation services to Fife and Forth Valley divisions.</p>
2	Murder	0	0	None	–	0	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <p><b>Standard Actions :</b></p> <p><b>Further Response:</b></p>
3	Attempted Murder	1	2	1 fewer	-50.0%	0	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <p><b>Standard Actions :</b></p> <p><b>Further Response:</b></p>

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour (Local Policing Plan objectives <b>emboldened</b> )_						Linked Single Outcome Agreement Priorities	
						Growing Business and Prosperous People	
						Young People Who Are Confident and Successful	
						Safer Communities	
						Healthier People	
No.	Performance Indicator	April 2013	April 2012	Victims	% Change	3/5 Year Average	Context and Actions/Response
4	Culpable Homicide (common law)	0	0	None	–	0	Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
5	Culpable Homicide (other)	1	0	1 more	%	0	Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
6	<b>Serious Assault detection rate</b>	0.0%	133.3%	-	-133.3%	87.5%	Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:
7	<b>Serious Assault</b>	0	3	3 fewer	-100.0%	6.4	Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:
8	<b>Robbery detection rate</b>	50%	60%		-10.0%	100%	Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:
9	<b>Robbery</b>	2	5	3 fewer	-60.0%	2	Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:
10	<b>Petty (Common) assault detection rate</b>	79.9%	81.6%		-1.8%		Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:
11	<b>Petty (common ) assault</b>	144	147	3 fewer	-2.0%	149	Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:
12	Stop and searches conducted	700	341		105.3%	-	Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:
13	Number of positive stop and searches conducted	98	33		197.0%	-	Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour (Local Policing Plan objectives <b>emboldened</b> )_						Linked Single Outcome Agreement Priorities	
						Growing Business and Prosperous People	
						Young People Who Are Confident and Successful	
						Safer Communities	
						Healthier People	
No.	Performance Indicator	April 2013	April 2012	Victims	% Change	3/5 Year Average	Context and Actions/Response
14	<b>Number of complaints regarding disorder</b>	929	1036	107	-10.3%	-	Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:
15	Vandalism detection rate	26%	26.8%		-0.8%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
16	Vandalism	127	138	11 fewer	-8.0%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
17	Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	8	9		-11.1%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
18	<b>Public perception of personal safety in communities</b>				%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:

<b>Serious Crime</b> (Local Policing Plan objectives <b>emboldened</b> )_						<b>Linked Single Outcome Agreement Priorities</b> Growing Business and Prosperous People Young People Who Are Confident and Successful Safer Communities Healthier People	
No.	Performance Indicator	April 2013	April 2012	Victims	% Change	3/5 Year Average	Context and Response
19	<b>Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation</b>	25	16		56.3%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
20	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	27%	35.5%		-8.5%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
21	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	37	31	6 more	19.4%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
22	Theft by shoplifting detection rate	77.2%	86.2%		-9.0%	90.5%	Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
23	Theft by shoplifting	57	65	8 fewer	-12.3%	63	Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
24	<b>Total No. Group 3 : Acquisitive Crime</b>	302	315	13 fewer	%	305	Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
25	<b>Applications for confiscation of assets under Proceeds of Crime legislation</b>				%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
26	<b>Prevent SOCGs from involvement in legitimate enterprise</b>				%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:



Tackling Domestic Abuse (Local Policing Plan objectives <b>emboldened</b> )							Linked Single Outcome Agreement Priorities
							Young People Who Are Confident and Successful
							Safer Communities
							Healthier People
No.	Performance Indicator	April 2013	April 2012	Victims	% Change	3/5 Year Average	Context and Response
27	<b>Total domestic abuse incidents</b>	125	133		%	132	Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:
28	<b>Total crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate</b>	89.9%	93.7%		-3.8%		Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:
29	<b>Ensure 95% of domestic abuse initial bail checks are conducted within a prescribed timeframe (24hrs)</b>	90.9%	-%		-%		Context: Standard Actions: Further Response:

Road Policing and Road Crime (Local Policing Plan objectives <b>emboldened</b> )						Linked Single Outcome Agreement Priorities	
						Safer Communities	
No.	Performance Indicator	April 2013	April 2012	Victims	% Change	3/5 Year Average	Context and Response
30	Dangerous driving	5	2		150.0%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
31	<b>Speeding</b>	129	121		6.6%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
32	<b>Disqualified driving</b>	3	1		200.0%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
33	Driving Licence	22	9		144.4%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
34	Insurance	66	35		88.6%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
35	Seat Belts	158	52		203.8%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
36	<b>Mobile Phone</b>	118	35		237.1%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
37	Seizure of vehicles				%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
38	<b>Number of injury road collisions</b>	18	21		%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
39	<b>Number of people killed or seriously injured</b>	3	4		%		Context: Standard Actions :

							Further Response:
40	Number of children killed or seriously injured	1	0		%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:

Protecting the Public (Local Policing Plan objectives <b>emboldened</b> )						Linked Single Outcome Agreement Priorities	
						Fairer Falkirk	
						Young People Who Are Confident and Successful	
						Safer Communities	
No.	Performance Indicator	April 2013	April 2012	Victims	% Change	3/5 Year Average	Context and Response
41	<b>Number of Group 2 - Crimes of Indecency</b>	10	12	2 fewer	-16.7%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
42	Group 2 crimes detection rate	50%	141.7%		-91.7%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
43	<b>Rape detection rate</b>	0%	66.7%		-66.7%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
44	<b>SOLO deployed within 24 hours for all rapes</b>	%	%		%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
45	<b>Timely inspection reviews of managed offenders</b>	%	%		%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
46	<b>Level of repeat offending</b>				%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:
47	<b>Hate crimes and offences – detection rate</b>	77.8%	73.5%		4.3%		Context: Standard Actions : Further Response:

Community Confidence and Engagement (Local Policing Plan objectives <b>emboldened</b> )					Linked Single Outcome Agreement Priorities		
					Fairer Falkirk		
					Young People Who Are Confident and Successful		
					Safer Communities		
No.	Performance Indicator	April 2013	April 2012	Victims	% Change	3/5 Year Average	Context and Response
48	<b>Emergency Calls attended within agreed timescale.</b>	%	%		%		<b>Context:</b> <b>Standard Actions :</b> <b>Further Response:</b>
49	<b>Public satisfaction with the police.</b>				%		<b>Context:</b> <b>Standard Actions :</b> <b>Further Response:</b>
50	<b>Number of complaints about the police.</b>	2	4		-50%		<b>Context:</b> <b>Standard Actions :</b> <b>Further Response:</b>
51	<b>Appropriate testing of emergency plans</b>				%		<b>Context:</b> <b>Standard Actions :</b> <b>Further Response:</b>

