

SAFE GLASGOW PARTNERSHIP'S MINUTES.

By video conference, 27th November 2025.

Safe Glasgow Partnership.

- Present:** Bailie Paul McCabe (Chair), Councillor Graham Campbell, Councillor Marie Garrity, Councillor William Graham, Councillor Elaine McSporrán, Councillor Jill Pidgeon, Councillor Davina Rankin, Councillor Catherine Vallis, Glasgow City Council; Chief Superintendent Emma Croft, Police Scotland, Local Senior Officer Andrew Kenna, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Darren Lambie, GCC Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability; Lynsey Smith, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; David Sheil, Wheatley Housing Group; and Lesley Gordon, Glasgow Third Sector Interface Network.
- Also Present:** Bailie Christy Mearns (substitute for Councillor Holly Bruce) and Councillor Leòdhas Massie (substitute for Bailie Seonad Hoy).
- Apologies:** Councillor Holly Bruce, Bailie Seonad Hoy, Jennifer Anderson and Diane Gillies.
- Attending:** E Paton (Clerk); D Glover, R MacLeod and M Smith, Communities Team, Chief Executives Department; Inspector Jamie McFarlane and Sergeant Mark McBlane, Police Scotland; Group Commander Craig Campbell and Station Commander Graeme Morrow, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Ann Fehilly, GCC Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability.

Chairs remarks.

- 1** Bailie McCabe opened the meeting by
 - (1) acknowledging the concerns of a number of worried citizens in Glasgow following the heinous attacks at the synagogue in Manchester and that Chief Superintendent Croft would cover Police Scotland's response to this later in the meeting;
 - (2) reaffirming the Partnership's trust and support for Police Officers who serve our communities to the best of their ability in challenging circumstances and encouraged everyone to watch the relentless video that had been created by the Scottish Police Federation to show just how challenging a job it could be; and
 - (3) encouraging the Partnership to get involved in some of the events that would be taking place over the next 2 weeks for 16 Days of Action against gender based violence.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

2 The minutes of 28th August 2025 were submitted and approved, subject to noting that

- (1) following a request by the Partnership for more robust scrutiny over the policing of protests, a meeting was held with Bailie McCabe, Bailie Hoy, Councillor Bruce, Chief Superintendent Croft, Superintendent Menzies and Rhona MacLeod, Communities Team to discuss the matter further which had been well received by all in attendance; and
- (2) there would be more opportunities to scrutinise the policing of protests matter further with a visit to the Police training centre for the Partnership to be arranged in due course.

Bonfire debrief presentation noted.

3 There was heard a joint presentation by Station Commander Graeme Morrow, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Inspector Jamie McFarlane, Police Scotland and Darren Lambie, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) regarding the Bonfire 2025 debrief, advising

- (1) of the number of multi-agency meetings that had taken place, that included officers from NRS, Wheatley Housing Group, SFRS and Police Scotland to discuss and progress plans, look at emerging intelligence and any actions required to mitigate risk during this period;
- (2) that the SFRS Community Action Team, in conjunction with Police School Engagement Officers had successfully engaged with 6500 primary school pupils and 7500 secondary school pupils across Glasgow, focussing primarily on safety but also on the potential for anti-social behaviour that could occur during this period;
- (3) that Police Scotland dedicated significant resources throughout the period with 123 additional officers available to respond to any firework related calls, which was over and above officers already on duty who would respond to business as usual demand; and
- (4) of the 4 phases of the police operation prior to, on the night and the debrief process with a key element of the process emanating from positive local engagement;
- (5) of the powers around the dispersal and firework control zones which provided officers with the means to manage any large scale antisocial behaviour that could be associated with bonfire season as well as providing reassurance to the public;
- (6) that the areas that had dispersal and firework control zones, experienced a decrease in incidents and crimes compared to the previous year and this

decrease was also replicated throughout the rest of the city with only the city centre noting an increase in all crimes during this period;

- (7) that local engagement was lead by GCC liaison teams that issued reassurance letters across the city based on areas that had been identified as potential hot spots; and
- (8) of the improvements that were made each year in relation to multi-agency support, particularly with the addition of the Wheatley Housing Group to the MATAC meetings.

After consideration, the Partnership

- (a) thanked Station Commander Morrow, Inspector McFarlane and Darren Lambie for their joint presentation and the work that they do in relation to improving the planning and outcomes around Bonfire night;
- (b) welcomed the ongoing preparations from all multi-agency partners;
- (c) acknowledged that there would be additional efforts made to engage with other housing providers in future bonfire planning, due to residents stockpiling bonfire materials in their properties and gardens; and
- (d) noted that Bonfire planning could start earlier next year, potentially in line with the firework control zone timelines, which could aid with engaging with Housing Associations and communities and allow for the Bonfire Protocol document being released earlier.

Community Justice Annual report 2024/25 presentation noted.

4 There was heard a presentation by D Glover, Communities Team regarding the Community Justice Annual Report 2024/25.

After consideration, the Partnership

- (1) thanked D Glover for the presentation and for and taking members through the Community Justice Annual Report website;
- (2) noted that
 - (a) 24 prisoners had been released from HMP Barlinnie as part of the Early Release programme, with 3 planned for the next phase prior to Christmas and 26 were under consideration for release in the new year; and
 - (b) prisoners would only be released on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays to ensure that services they needed to access would be available to them.

Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership – Update noted.

5 There was submitted and noted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability regarding an update on the work of the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership (GVAWP), highlighting

- (1) that Bailie Anne McTaggart had been appointed as Chair of the GVAWP following the resignation of Councillor Holly Bruce from the role;
- (2) that Glasgow City Council (GCC) had allocated additional funds to Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability to fund a new resource worker for Violence Against Women Services and the post commenced on 3rd November;
- (3) the upcoming Partnership activities that were taking place in collaboration with Wise Women;
- (4) of the funding extension until March 2026, confirmed by the Scottish Government for all seven of the 'Delivering Equally Safe' funded projects, with no indications of funding arrangements beyond this time;
- (5) the arrangements that had been put in place to review and restructure the delivery of the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process in Glasgow due to the increased volume of referrals, challenges in discussing all referrals within agreed timeframes and capacity and resource demands for preparatory work; and
- (6) the proposed Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill, which the GVAWP supported and was aligned with GCC policy position on commercial sexual exploitation.

After consideration, the Partnership

- (a) thanked Councillor Bruce for her work with the GVAWP; and
- (b) noted that
 - (i) Ann Fehilly and Margaret Smith would meet with Bailie Mearns to discuss in more detail, early and effective intervention in relation to child exploitation;
 - (ii) prevention and early intervention work targeted all children and young people and the terminology VAWP reflected that 1 in 3 women would experience some form of male violence in their lifetime;
 - (iii) the city-wide Strategic Plan that had been agreed by the GVAWP, would be a live document and would evolve over time; and
 - (iv) services were available for trans women, with the exception of accommodation and group work within single sex spaces.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2024-25 - Quarter 2 performance noted.

6 There was submitted and noted a report by Local Senior Officer Andrew Kenna, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, providing an overview of the current performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) for the period Q2 2024/25, from 1st July to 30th September 2025, advising

- (1) that due to financial and operational challenges identified in 2023, the development of Local Fire and Rescue Plans had been put on hold until a series of Service Review Consultations had taken place, which the Partnership had fully contributed to;
- (2) of the progress made in relation to local fire and rescue plan priorities on the prevention and reduction of accidental dwelling fire, deliberate fires, road traffic collisions and prevention and protection activities along with details for each Glasgow City Council ward;
- (3) that accidental dwelling fires across Glasgow had continued to decline which could be attributed to proactive fire prevention and public engagement from both operational crews and the community action team;
- (4) that ongoing prevention efforts had resulted in a significant reduction in deliberate fires this quarter;
- (5) that there had been a slight increase in the number of UFAS during this quarter, however the number remained significantly lower than prior to the UFAS policy change in July 2023, with the majority of UFAS incidents coming from residential care homes, student halls of residence and hospitals; and
- (6) of the ongoing community safety and engagement activities SFRS were involved with that included station open days, charity car washes and the water safety event that reinforced the importance of safety around open water and the role of multi-agency collaboration in protecting lives.

After consideration, the Partnership

- (a) noted that
 - (i) the review of Local Fire and Rescue Plans for Glasgow would now begin and updates would be presented to the Partnership at future meetings; and
 - (ii) SFRS were fully prepared for any fires in the cities high rise housing stock; and
- (b) expressed its condolences to anyone involved in the recent tragic fires in Hong Kong.

One Glasgow Reducing Offending – Service overview 2024/25 details noted.

7 There was submitted and noted a presentation by Sergeant Mark McBain, Police Scotland regarding the One Glasgow Reducing Offending project, advising that

- (1) the One Glasgow Reducing Offending project was a unique multi-agency partnership led by Police Scotland in partnership with Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), Children and Families, Social Work Services and Community Justice Glasgow;
- (2) the project was currently funded by Police Scotland and Glasgow City HSCP with project staff coming from both organisations;
- (3) the aim of the project was to provide positive pathways for under 25s who were involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the criminal justice system; and
- (4) Police Scotland and Includem had submitted a Cashback for Communities Bid for a 3-year project to create a team tailored to support young people involved in or on the edge of violence.

After consideration, the Partnership thanked Sergeant McBlain for his presentation.

Police Scotland - Local Policing Plan 2023-26 - Performance for Year 3, Quarter 2 noted - Request to Police Scotland.

8 There was submitted and noted a report by Chief Superintendent Emma Croft, Police Scotland, providing an overview of the current performance of Police Scotland during the Q2 period from 1st July to 30th September 2025, advising

- (1) of some of the work being undertaken in relation to protecting vulnerable people, events, crime and serious and organised crime;
- (2) of the continued drive forward of the Public Health approach to Policing, with numerous pieces of multi-agency work being carried out in relation to suicide prevention;
- (3) that there had been an increase in violent crime statistics for this quarter with robbery being the only category showing a decrease;
- (4) that there had been an unfortunate increase in recorded crimes of rape and a slight increase in sexual assaults for this quarter, which could be attributed to the volumes of historical crimes being recorded and not the number of victims, as many victims record more than one crime;
- (5) of the slight increase in Hate Crime statistics, which was kept under daily review, with officers seeking different opportunities to prevent and support;

- (6) that there had been 194 protests since the start of 2025 with 20 arrests made during this period;
- (7) that funding from the Scottish Government had been obtained for a number of dedicated officers in Glasgow to work with the National Retail Crime Taskforce to address the rise in offences such as shoplifting; and
- (8) that the Chief Constable had sought a revenue uplift for the forthcoming financial year from the Scottish Government and further information on this would be brought back to the Partnership once the budget had been confirmed.

After consideration, the Partnership

- (a) thanked Chief Superintendent Croft for the additional information that had been supplied in relation to Hate Crime and the Specially Trained Officer report that detailed a breakdown of taser data which clearly evidenced that its use was not discriminatory;
- (b) noted that
 - (i) historic sexual crime victims would be interviewed by Police Scotland as many times as it would take for them to feel comfortable to supply the details of a crime and they would be directed to relevant partner agencies for any additional support required, as not all victims want additional support, it would therefore be tailored to an individuals needs;
 - (ii) there had been a significant amount of work carried out in relation to Hate Crime incidents, especially around late night take aways;
 - (iii) Police Scotland were in discussions with Glasgow City Council in relation to the CCTV provision which was operational 24/7, however was not staffed until 3pm which hindered police investigations, with Bailie McCabe and Chief Superintendent Croft indicating that they would liaise further on this; and
 - (iv) there had been a significant amount of work carried out with the Jewish community given the recent incident, with a larger police presence deployed already due to it being Yom Kippur; and
- (c) supported Police Scotland's bid for an increase in funding.

Future meeting dates approved.

9 The Partnership approved the undernoted meeting schedule for 2026:-

19th March 2026 at 10.00am (in person)

18th June 2026 at 2.00pm (by video conference)

27th August 2026 at 10.00am (in person)
26th November at 10.00am (by video conference)