

REPORT TO: Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

MEETING DATE: 13 June 2018

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services)

SUBJECT: Scottish Police Authority Annual Review of Policing 2017/18

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide a response to a request from the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) for local authority views to feed in to their Annual Review of Policing 2017/18.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee considers and approves the draft response at Annex A, subject to any amendments it wishes to make.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Chair of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA), Susan Deacon, wrote to local authority scrutiny conveners on 26 April seeking their input to the SPA's Annual Review of Policing 2017/18. Her letter is at Annex B.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 SPA plan to take responses into account in their Review, and intend to publish relevant extracts in their report. Any policy decisions resulting from the Review are for SPA to make.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – none
6.2 Personnel - none
6.3 Other – none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Letter from Susan Deacon, Chair, Scottish Police Authority (Annex B).
7.2 [East Lothian Local Policing Plan 2017-2020](#), produced by Police Scotland and approved at full Council in August 2017.

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DESIGNATION	Executive Officer
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DATE	30 May 2018

SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

Annual Review of Policing 2017/18 - local authority views

Name of Local Scrutiny Committee:

East Lothian Council Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

1. 2017/18, how effective has Police Scotland's support for local scrutiny and engagement with your scrutiny committee been?

We have received full support from Police Scotland officers in our scrutiny. Police Scotland have been represented at every meeting of this Committee and provided relevant reports. It would be beneficial if statistical information relevant to our area were released earlier. We have adjusted our Committee cycle to take account of the time it takes to release Police Scotland statistics, but we would still like to minimise that time so that we can scrutinise them nearer to the time-period to which they refer.

2. How well do you think your local police plan reflects community priorities?

The Local Policing Plan approved in August 2017 took account of the developing draft Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (which was itself agreed in September 2017 and in development of which Police Scotland Scotland colleagues had also been involved). However, there may be more that could be done in respect of our Local Area Partnerships and the developing Locality Plans defined in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

3. How effective do you think Police Scotland's reporting against local priorities been, in supporting your scrutiny?

Effective. Police Scotland officers attend every meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and answer elected members' questions on their reports.

4. What are the top three things about policing in your area, which you think are working really well?

Joint working:

- *at senior management level;*

- *between council's Community Safety Officers and police officers;*
- *in relation to Child and Adult Protection;*
- *through groups such as the Community and Policing Partnerships, the Safety Advisory Group (which oversees public events in the area) and the Anti Social Behaviour Overview Group;*
- *for Protective Services, Trading Standards and Licensing work – allowing*
 - *effective communication with consumers about counterfeit goods;*
 - *reduction of illicit trade;*
 - *denial of access by known criminal groups to licenses (licensed premises, taxis, security industry etc);*
 - *community awareness of dangers and ethical issues around human trafficking, prostitution, drugs (including New Psychoactive Substances) and counterfeit goods;*
 - *community awareness around Serious Organised Crime and how to mitigate risks.*

Police officers are proactive and do not hesitate to raise any concerns locally with relevant officers.

5. What are your top three priorities for improvement?

Length of tenure at senior officer level. *Establishment and maintenance of effective partnership working relationships can sometimes be hindered by the frequent redeployment of key senior officers to other areas/roles within Police Scotland, impacting on the effectiveness of local co-ordination and planning arrangements.*

We would welcome more clarity on how community officers could maximise effective engagement with local communities, *particularly the interface between Community and Policing Partnerships, Community Councils and Area Partnerships.*

We would welcome ***better clarity on the added value of directly-funded officers.***

6. Are there any examples of good practice in your local area you want to highlight? Please provide details below.

- a) *Community and Policing Partnerships.*
- b) *The Safety Advisory Group.*
- c) *The recently established Rural Crime Initiative.*
- d) *Working together on the CONTEST initiative.*

- e) *The interface between the Licensing Service and the Police is particularly constructive and the Police have been valued contributors to development of the draft East Lothian Statement of Alcohol Licencing Policy currently out to public consultation. There is also a very good working relationship in relation to Civic Government and Gambling Licensing.*
- f) *Our scrutiny arrangements.*

7. What would you like to see the SPA to do more of, to help you in your role and to support better local outcomes?

We would like to see more engagement for local authorities with members of the SPA. In previous years a member of the SPA often attended meetings of the East Lothian Safe and Vibrant Communities Partnership (now superseded), and a member of the SPA would likewise be welcome at the Council's scrutiny committee meetings.

About your local scrutiny arrangements

8. How would you describe your local scrutiny arrangements for policing?

- *Police, Fire and Community Safety Committee;*
- *Community and Policing Partnerships (CAPPs) which meet publicly in local areas and also give reports to East Lothian's Local Area Partnerships on request.*

9. How many elected members are regularly involved in your local scrutiny process?

Eight elected members are members of the scrutiny committee. East Lothian Council has 22 elected members in total. The Local Policing Plan is brought to full Council for approval.

10. Is there any additional information or feedback you would like to share?

Police Scotland are involved in governance arrangements for East Lothian's community planning partnership, but there can be variability in the seniority of those who attend governance group meetings. Although we recognise there must be difficulties in resourcing attendance at all the community planning partnerships in the Lothians, it would be helpful to have more consistency.

This response -

This response will inform the Annual Review of Policing, and local examples and comments will be included within the Review document.

Yes

**Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback and information.
Responses should be sent to -
SPACommunityAccountability@spa.pnn.police.uk by Friday 29th June
2018.**

If you have any queries or comments about the process, please contact Eleanor Gaw, SPA Community Accountability, eleanor.gaw@spa.pnn.police.uk Tel 01786 896886.

DRAFT

LETTER SENT BY EMAIL

To: Conveners and Elected Member leads, local scrutiny of policing

Our ref: SD/18/CW

26 April 2018

Annual Review of Policing 2017/18: local scrutiny input

The SPA is currently preparing the Annual Review of Policing for 2017/18, to be laid before the Scottish Parliament in autumn 2018. This must include an assessment of Police Scotland's and SPA's performance during the year and it can also include such other information as SPA considers appropriate.

I am keen to make sure that this review is informed by, and can reflect, the experience and insights of local committees and elected members across Scotland who are responsible for the scrutiny of policing in their local communities. I would therefore like to invite your input.

A brief set of questions is attached to assist us in gathering your views and I would be very grateful if you could take the time to reflect and offer input from your local committee in response.

I very much appreciated the opportunity to speak with many of you at the meeting of the COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners' Forum in February. Following those discussions a joint working group has been set up involving the SPA, COSLA, Police Scotland and SOLACE to strengthen the connection between local and national scrutiny, develop a shared evidence base, and support service improvement.

The SPA Board is itself in a significant period of refresh, with a number of new members recently appointed by the Cabinet Secretary, and work is progressing to drive forward rapid improvement across all aspects of the Authority's internal operations and its outward engagement.

More detail on recent developments is available in my report, and the report of SPA Interim Chief Officer Kenneth Hogg, to the SPA Board on 29th March 2018. This reports are now standing items on SPA Board agendas, and may provide a useful summary update in future.

<http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/126884/441011/441165/451586/452067>
<http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/126884/441011/441165/451586/451625>

Kind regards



Susan Deacon, CBE
Chair, Scottish Police Authority