

REPORT TO: Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

MEETING DATE: 14th November 2019

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships & Community Services)

SUBJECT: Strategic Police Priorities; Scottish Government Consultation

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Strategic Police Priorities.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the Council's response to the Scottish Government consultation on the Strategic Police Priorities.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Scottish Government undertook a consultation on the Strategic Police Priorities from July to 4 October, 2019. A weblink to the consultation document is provided below:

<https://consult.gov.scot/safer-communities/review-of-strategic-police-priorities/>

- 3.2 The consultation proposed six new Strategic Police Priorities (SPPs) to replace the seven SPPs that were set in October 2016. The seven current SPPs are:

- Localism
- Inclusion
- Prevention
- Response
- Collaborative working
- Accountability
- Adaptability

3.3 The SPPs, which are set by Scottish Ministers, set the high level strategic directions for the policing of Scotland and the carrying out of the functions of the Scottish Police Authority. Both the Strategic and Annual Police Plans must have regard to the SPPs.

3.4 In developing the new SPPs the Scottish Government discussed their thinking with a range of organisations who have a direct interest in policing in Scotland. Key themes which emerged from these discussions included:

- reinforcing the importance of an open and transparent governance framework for the police service, including planning and performance;
- ensuring the SPPs reinforce the importance and value of the workforce;
- evidence of demand as a key driver for the development and delivery of the service;
- tackling crime should remain a core priority for the service;
- being as clear as possible about the role of the police service in delivering services with partners;
- the need for a continued focus on local policing, within the context of a national police service; and
- the importance of service transformation to delivering effective and sustainable services.

3.5 The draft SPPs are strategic and concise to enable the Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland to further define the outcomes, objectives and actions which flow from this high-level direction.

3.6 The proposed six Strategic Police Priorities are as follows:

Crime and Security – prioritises prevention, investigation, equality and human rights to support positive criminal justice outcomes, respond to current and emerging threats and maintain public order.

Confidence – continues to inspire public trust by being ethical, open and transparent, evidencing performance against outcomes, and building on a positive reputation at a local, national and international level.

Partnerships – works proactively with partners to maintain safe communities and support improved outcomes for individuals, increasing resilience and addressing vulnerability.

Sustainability – adapts to present and plans for future social and economic circumstances, considering the environmental impact of policing and its operations.

People – values, supports, engages and empowers a diverse workforce to lead and deliver high quality services.

Evidence – uses evidence to develop services and addresses current and emerging demands, ensuring that the right capacity and skills are in place to deliver high performing and innovative services.

- 3.7 The deadline for responses to the consultation was 4th October 2019. Since there was not time to put a draft response to a meeting of the Police, Fire and Community Safety Committee before the deadline for responses, Committee Members were sent the consultation paper and asked for comments. A draft response was then shared with the Convener of the Committee before it was submitted on behalf of the council by officers – see Appendix 1.
- 3.8 The substantive comment made in the council’s response is concern that the new SPPs do not include ‘Localism’ which is one of the current SPPs. This is particularly concerning since one of the themes that emerged from the discussions on the new SPPs was “The need for a continued focus on local policing, within the context of a national police force.”
- 3.9 The council’s response made the point that “We would want the SPPs to include a focus on ‘Localism’, ensuring that the national police force continues to focus on local policing to ensure it maintains the confidence and trust of the public.”

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications arising from this report or the consultation on the Strategic Police Priorities.

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 None.

Appendix 1: Council Response to the Consultation on Strategic Police Priorities

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DATE	5 th November 2019

Appendix 1: Council Response to the Consultation on the Strategic Police Priorities

1. To what extent do the revised Strategic Police Priorities meet your expectations for what the Scottish Police Authority and the Police Service should focus on in the future?

- a. Fully
- b. Partially X
- c. Not at all

Please provide reasons for your response.

One of the themes that emerged from the discussions on the new SPPs was 'The need for a continued focus on local policing, within the context of a national police force.' However, the draft SPPs do not explicitly refer to 'Localism' as a priority.

We are not sure why 'Evidence' has been included as an SPP as it is self-evident that any public body would develop policies, strategies and services that are 'evidence based'.

2. Do the revised Strategic Police Priorities reflect your needs?

- a. Fully
- b. Partially X
- c. Not at all

Please provide reasons for your response.

We would want the SPPs to include a focus on 'Localism', ensuring that the national police force continues to focus on local policing to ensure it maintains the confidence and trust of the public.

3. Do the revised Strategic Police Priorities reflect the needs of your community?

- a. Fully
- b. Partially X
- c. Not at all

Please provide reasons for your response.

See response to 2.

4. Do you agree that the revised Strategic Police Priorities should be in place for a period of 6 years? Please provide reasons for your response?

We agree that the SPPs should be in place for a period longer than 3 years but not sure that they should be in place for as long as 6 years.

5. How do you think the progress towards delivering the Strategic Police Priorities should be measured?

We agree that nationally progress towards delivering the SPPs should be reviewed through the Annual Review of Policing and regular reports to the Scottish Police Authority. It is also important that performance reports to local authority police scrutiny committees include monitoring of the delivery of the SPPs to allow local elected members and communities to scrutinise and review progress in delivering SPPs within the local context.

6. Do you have any comments to make on our partial equalities impact assessment?

No