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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**CUSTOMER SERVICES**

**25 FEBRUARY 2016**

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**HMICS SCRUTINY PLAN 2016/17 CONSULTATION**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

HM Inspectorate for Constabulary Scotland (HMICS) issued a consultation on their proposed Scrutiny Plan for 2016/17 on 8 January 2016. The deadline for submission was 12 February 2016.

As the PRS Committee has the remit to scrutinise Police Scotland, in accordance with the council's duties under the Police and Fire Reform Act 2012, PRS was considered the most appropriate Committee to respond to the consultation.

As the deadline for consultation was 12 February 2016, prior to the PRS Committee meeting scheduled for 25 February, the committee considered this at its business day on 28 January. A response was agreed and submitted by the chair. This is attached for the Committee's noting.

## HMICS SCRUTINY PLAN 2016/17 CONSULTATION

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### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 HM Inspectorate for Constabulary Scotland issued a consultation on their proposed Scrutiny Plan for 2016/17 on 8 January 2016. The deadline for submission was 12 February 2016.
- 2.2 As the PRS Committee has the remit to scrutinise Police Scotland, in accordance with the council's duties under the Police and Fire Reform Act 2012, PRS was considered the most appropriate Committee to respond to the consultation.
- 2.3 As the deadline for consultation was 12 February 2016, prior to the PRS Committee meeting scheduled for 25 February, the committee considered this at its business day on 28 January. A response was agreed and submitted by the chair. This is attached for the Committee's noting.

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Note the attached response submitted by the PRS Chair to HMICS in accordance with the position agreed at the PRS Committee Business Day on 28 January 2016.

### 4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, (HMICS), has a statutory role to report on the state, effectiveness and efficiency of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. In May 2014, they published HMICS Corporate Strategy 2014-2017, which outlined their approach to scrutiny, together with our inspection framework.
- 4.2 On 8 January 2016, HM Inspectorate for Constabulary Scotland issued a consultation on their proposed Scrutiny Plan for 2016/17 on 8 January 2016 seeking views on its proposals or on any other areas the council considered would benefit from scrutiny by HMICS during 2016-17. The deadline for submission of views was 12 February 2016.
- 4.3 The Scrutiny Plan sets out the proposed approach to inspection, supported by their Scrutiny Framework, which seeks to provide structure to their activities

and the means to transparently, consistently and objectively assess policing in Scotland. Their approach to inspection is supported by their framework, which has been developed using the principles outlined in the *Public Sector Improvement Framework* self-evaluation model used in many public sector settings. It has been adapted to provide a scrutiny framework model to assist specifically in the inspection of elements of policing or the Authority. It will form the basis of any inspection but provides sufficient flexibility to be adapted so that the key themes and sub-elements reflect the purpose of the inspection to be undertaken.



4.4 At the PRS Business Day on 28 January, the committee members discussed and endorsed the framework and mandated the Chair to respond to HMICS directly to ensure the timescale for submitting views was adhered to.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The PRS Committee members considered the HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2016/17 at their Business Day in January and mandated the chair to respond to the consultation supporting the framework.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

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6.1 Policy - none

6.2 Financial - none

6.3 Legal - none

6.4 HR - none

6.5 Equalities - none

6.6 Risk - none

6.7 Customer Service - none

**Douglas Hendry - Executive Director of Customer Services**  
**Policy Lead – Councillor Dick Walsh**  
February 2016

**For further information contact:** Jane Fowler, Head of Improvement and HR

**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – PRS Chair's response to HMICS

**Marshall, Shona**

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**From:** Ian Ross <ianmmross@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 01 February 2016 12:53  
**To:** Dennis.Hunter@scotland.gsi.gov.uk  
**Cc:** Marshall, Shona  
**Subject:** HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2016-17

Good afternoon, Mr Hunter ,

I write as Chair of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee of Argyll & Bute Council to confirm our consideration, as a

committee, of the HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2016-17 .

We found the document to be commendably lucid and comprehensive. Discussion of our own aspirations for the year ahead were most helpfully stimulated by the Plan and our local interaction with Police Scotland will be that better informed.

We thank you for sight of the Plan and applaud the authors and the ambition.

Sincerely,

Ian M M Ross