

CONSULTATION ON THE STRATEGIC POLICE PRIORITIES

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To approve the draft response to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in relation to consultation on the strategic police priorities for the new national Scottish Police Authority which goes live on April 1 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Council is asked to approve the attached draft response to the Consultation.
- 2.2 The Council is asked to delegate authority to the Director of Customer Services to incorporate comments from the Community Planning Committee into the draft response prior to submission to the Scottish Ministers by the consultation deadline of 10th January 2013.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The new Police Service of Scotland and the new national Scottish Police Authority (SPA) go live on April 1 2013 and Scottish Ministers are required to set strategic police priorities for the SPA to provide clear strategic direction in relation to policing in Scotland. In order to support this a consultation exercise is being undertaken with all key stakeholders lead by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice
- 3.2 The Cabinet Secretary has highlighted that the strategic police priorities should be stretching and ambitious, reflecting the crucial role policing plays in supporting the delivery of the Scottish Government's wider purpose and national outcomes. This role is reflected in the new policing principles set out in section 32 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012:
- a) That the main purpose of policing is to improve the safety and well-being of persons, localities and communities in Scotland;
 - b) that the Police Service, working in collaboration with others where appropriate, should seek to achieve that main purpose by policing in a way which –
 - (i) is accessible to, and engaged with, local communities, *and*
 - (ii) promotes measures to prevent crime, harm and disorder.
- 3.3 An early priority for the SPA will be to work closely with the Chief Constable to establish the new service and to ensure the benefits of reform are realised. The strategic police priorities will inform the SPA's own three year strategic plan and feed into the development of the Chief Constable's annual plan and local plans. These plans will include specific actions to deliver the outcomes described in the strategic police priorities

to communities across Scotland. Taken together, the strategic police priorities and plans will form the basis against which progress on achieving positive outcomes for Scotland's communities is monitored. National and local priorities are not mutually exclusive - so a focus on preventing violent crime as a national priority may translate into a focus on preventing knife crime or alcohol related crime locally. National priorities often emerge from issues identified locally.

- 3.4 The Council, in conjunction with other stakeholders, is invited to comment on the draft strategic priorities attached at Annex A and in particular to respond to 3 key questions as outlined in Section 4.
- 3.5 The Police are integral partners within the Argyll and Bute Community Partnership and the Community Planning Committee will also consider the consultation documentation at their meeting on 12th December. Their feedback and comments will be incorporated into the final response.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 The proposed response to the 3 key questions contained within the Consultation is as follows:

- 4.2 *1) Do the strategic police priorities adequately reflect the Scottish Government's purpose and outcomes and the new policing principles?*

Argyll and Bute Council support a clear national priority for the Police Service in Scotland to fully participate in multi-agency working at national and local level. A strategic priority that policing in Scotland is delivered on partnership basis is vitally important and also that local commanders work directly with partners and local communities within the community planning framework.

- 4.3 *2) Do the strategic police priorities cover the important issues as a stakeholder you would expect to see?*

The strategic police priorities cover, as we would expect, strategic direction to develop an operational framework based upon prevention, effective partnerships, multi-agency arrangements, engagement with communities and cross boundary responses. Importantly this is consistent with wider public sector reform of a decisive shift towards prevention and early intervention achieved through integration and greater collaboration.

In relation to thematic priorities, such as reducing violent crime, we would highlight the need to ensure that tension does not exist between police national priorities and locally determined thematic priorities by the Community Planning Partnership. We acknowledge that national priorities will, as indicated in the consultation document, often translate into a focus on a related crime locally. There should, however, be an appropriate balance struck between action to deliver on national issues, whether thematic or cross border, and issues that are locally determined policing priorities

- 4.4 *3) The purpose of strategic police priorities is to provide strategic direction over the medium to long term. Are these priorities pitched at the right level? In terms of the three year strategic plan produced by the SPA, what*

should that plan contain? Are there more specific deliverables flowing from the strategic priorities which you would expect to be delivered by the SPA and the PSoS?

Argyll and Bute Council agree the priorities contained within the consultation document provide a basis from which the strategic direction of the Police Service of Scotland is determined. The three year strategic plan produced by the Scottish Police Authority should contain specific direction on key issues for communities and partners, including local authorities, arising from policing reform in Scotland. These are:

- Commitment to partnership working and clear statement on how this will be achieved
- Local governance and accountability including planning, budgeting and funding
- Integration with Community Planning Partnerships
- Strengthening community trust and public confidence
- Promoting an outcome based approach

5. SUMMARY

- 4.1 Council is requested to approve the proposed response to consultation on key strategic police priorities.
- 4.2 The Community Planning Committee will also consider the consultation documentation at its Committee Meeting on 12th December and their response will be incorporated into the final submission to the Scottish Ministers to meet the deadline of 10th January 2013.
- 4.3 In order to meet the submission deadline the Council is requested to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Customer Services to incorporate feedback from the Community Planning Committee into the final response.

6. IMPLICATIONS

Policy: the recommendations support focus on effective partnership working through the Community Planning framework.

Financial: Not applicable

Legal: Not applicable

HR: Not applicable

Equalities: Not applicable

Risk: Not applicable

Customer Service: Not applicable

7. APPENDICES

- 7.1 Draft Strategic Police Priorities - Annex A

DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICE PRIORITIES

The SPA and the Police Service of Scotland will deliver the policing principles and realise the statutory principles of policing as set out in the Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. The SPA is the national body responsible for the governance of policing in Scotland. It will allocate resources to the Chief Constable and hold him to account for the policing of Scotland and the delivery of statutory functions.

The priorities as drafted are intended to clearly incorporate the contribution which policing can make to achieving the Scottish Government's national outcomes and the priorities within the Strategy for Justice. Consistent with our wider ambitions for public service reform, these are strongly underpinned by an ethos of prevention, rooted within a partnership approach.

They are intended to set clear national priorities but also to empower local commanders to work with partners in the public, private and third sectors, and local communities within the community planning framework to deliver greater integration of services at a local level driven by better partnership, collaboration and effective local delivery.

We expect that further specific and measurable deliverables relating to Scottish Government's national outcomes will be included in the Strategic Plan which the SPA will draft on the basis of the strategic priorities.

Make communities safer and reduce crime by demonstrating pioneering approaches to partnership and collaboration at a national and local level.

Actively support a decisive shift towards prevention by promoting evidence based preventative practice and effective partnerships which make the most of collective resource, knowledge and expertise, especially around reducing violence, substance misuse, promoting better outcomes for young people who offend and protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Supports:

National outcome 5: Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed

National outcome 8: We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk

National outcome 9: We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger

Strengthen Scotland's reputation as a successful and safe country by demonstrating excellence in effectively planning for and responding to major national events and threats.

Work across national, international and organisational boundaries to ensure a safe and secure Commonwealth Games; contribute effectively to multi agency arrangements to deal with emergencies; and minimise threats to our communities more generally.

Supports:

National outcome 9: We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger

National outcome 11: We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others

Provide an efficient, effective service and deliver the benefits of reform.

Deliver the three benefits of reform¹ and work with others to ensure that the criminal justice system is fair and accessible, cost effective and efficient.

Make communities stronger by increasing public confidence and reducing fear of crime, making the new Police Service of Scotland an exemplar of visible and responsive policing.

Ensure that victims, witnesses and communities experience positive engagement with the police by providing inspirational leadership and embedding a culture, identity and values which provide a highly skilled and motivated workforce to deliver improved local services with the consent and involvement of communities.

Supports:

National outcome 7: We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.

National outcome 9: We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger

National outcome 11: We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others

National outcome 13: We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity

National outcome 16: Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

1

¹ Protect and improve local services despite financial cuts, by stopping duplication of support services eight times over and not cutting front line services.

Create more equal access to specialist support and national capacity where and when they are needed.

Strengthen the connection between services and communities, by creating a new formal relationship with each of the 32 local authorities, involving many more local councillors and better integrating with community planning partnerships.