

**POLICE AND FIRE & RESCUE REFORM
COLLABORATIVE STATEMENT OF GOOD SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT**

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 came into force on 1 October 2012. The purpose of this Act is to create a single police service and a single fire and rescue service, both of which will go live on 1 April 2013.
- 1.2 In preparation for the introduction of the new single Police and Fire & Rescue Services for Scotland, and implementation of the new local scrutiny and engagement arrangements created by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, the Scottish Government have established a Local Scrutiny and Engagement Implementation Network (LSEIN), led by a Project Team of four.
- 1.3 The LSEIN, in close collaboration with key strategic partners, including COSLA, SOLACE, the Improvement Service, the Scottish Police Authority, and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board, have developed non statutory guidance in regard to good scrutiny and engagement arrangements, and this is attached at **appendix 1**.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee are asked to;

- 2.1 Note the content of the non-statutory guidance

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The collaborative statement of good scrutiny and engagement is non-statutory guidance about the formal mechanisms for engagement and scrutiny and was consulted on during December 2013. The version detailed at Appendix 1 takes account of all feedback provided, however this will be a living document and version updates will be issued regularly to reflect developments in practice across Scotland under the new arrangements.

- 3.2 The guidance offers evidence based advice on what works, based on learning from the 21 Pathfinders operating across Scotland as part of the LSEIN, to support the transition to the new local arrangements, and provides useful checklists and case studies for local authorities to refer to.
- 3.3 There are no specific implications for the Council as the guidance is non-statutory and is intended to compliment, rather than replace, current guidance, such as that on SOAs and Best Value. However, the guidance may act as a useful reference tool for members of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee, to support their scrutiny role in relation to local police, and fire and rescue services.

4.0 SUMMARY

- 4.1 A collaborate statement of good scrutiny and engagement has been developed to support local authorities deliver the new arrangements created by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. This practical guide offers examples of good practice, case studies and checklists that can be referred to and adopted by Councils, as appropriate.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Policy – none
- 5.2. Finance – none
- 5.3. Legal - none
- 5.4. Equal Opportunities - none
- 5.5. HR – none
- 5.6 Risk - none
- 5.7 Customer Service – none

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