
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

Council

Customer Services

20 April 2017

**Policing 2026: Our 10 year strategy for policing in Scotland
Draft Consultation Response**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the draft response to the Police Scotland consultation on Policing 2026: Our 10 year strategy for policing in Scotland to Council for approval.
- 1.2 The deadline for consultation responses to be submitted is 8 May 2017, so this falls outside the meeting cycle for the PRS Committee, which deals with the majority of business relating to Police for the Council.
- 1.3 There are no financial implications from this report.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Police Scotland has issued a consultation titled *Policing 2026: Our 10 year strategy for policing in Scotland*. The deadline for responses to this consultation is 8 May 2017. This deadline is outside the meeting cycle for the PRS Committee, which is where the majority of Council business relating to the police is considered. On that basis, this report presents a summary of the strategy and draft response to the consultation to Council for approval.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that Council agree the attached response to the policing 2026 consultation for submission.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 Policing 2026 is a strategy document that sets out the direction for policing in Scotland over the next 10 years. A summary of the key points is included at Appendix 1 and the full document is included at Appendix 2.

4.2 The strategy document sets out an approach to policing that continues the journey of police reform, following the creation of a single police force in 2012. It recognises the changing nature of communities, the need for prevention and future skills, tools and capacity.

4.3 The strategy seeks to focus on improving impact through partnership working, driving improvement, making best use of resources, provide leadership, review performance and retain values of fairness, integrity and respect.

4.4 The strategy will develop the police service's approach in the areas of:

- Protection
- Prevention
- Communities
- Innovation

- 4.5 The document recognises that change is ongoing and that Police Scotland must plan for change, recognising that the key priority of protecting the public will not change.
- 4.6 In Argyll and Bute, Police Scotland is an integral partner in the Community Planning Partnership, has a strong presence in our communities and works closely with the Council in important areas such as CONTEST and Civil Contingencies. The Council's PRS Committee has close engagement with Police Scotland as part of its scrutiny role. This provides an opportunity for elected members to have an overview of police performance in the area, contribute to developing priorities and understand the nature of the work that the police are involved in across Argyll and Bute.
- 4.7 Localism and community policing is important in our area. Whilst we continue to have very low levels of crime in comparison with the rest of Scotland, it remains important to our communities to have a visible police presence in the area. In reporting to the PRS Committee, the Area Commander has presented a very clear approach to maximizing the presence of officers in our communities, within the context of a reducing budget.
- 4.8 The areas that Police Scotland are most active in across Argyll and Bute are in Road Traffic Collisions and in welfare related areas, where vulnerable people are unable to identify alternative support. Working across the Community Planning Partnership continues to be an important area for us to work with Police Scotland to address both of these areas.
- 4.9 The attached draft response is presented for Council approval at Appendix 3. It highlights the main issues for Argyll and Bute Council in this long term strategy consultation.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Policing 2026 sets out a long term vision for policing in Scotland. The draft response to the consultation highlights issues for Argyll and Bute council in this document.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy	None from this report
6.2 Financial	None
6.3 Legal	None
6.4 HR	None
6.5 Equalities	None for the Council
6.6 Risk	Responding to the consultation mitigates the risk that Policing issues
6.7 Customer Service	None

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of Policing 2026

Appendix 2 – Full document – Policing 2026

Appendix 3 – draft consultation response to Policing 2026