

---

**POLICE AND FIRE & RESCUE REFORM - UPDATE**

---

**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.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on the progress that has been made to date with regard to the Police and Fire & Rescue Reform agenda, in preparation for the introduction of the new single Police and Fire & Rescue Services for Scotland which go live on 1 April 2013.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Note the progress that has been made in respect of Police and Fire & Rescue Reform at a national and Argyll and Bute level; and
- 2.2 Note that details of proposed future governance and local scrutiny and engagement arrangements are being developed and will be reported to Council in December 2012

**3.0 DETAIL****3.1 Background**

- 3.1.1 The Executive, at its meeting on 21 April 2011 considered two Scottish Government consultations in respect of the future of Police and Fire & Rescue services in Scotland. The terms of a response were agreed and a joint submission with the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership was submitted within the 5 May 2011 deadline that had been set.
- 3.1.2 Following this initial consultation exercise the First Minister, on 7 September 2011, announced proposals to bring forward legislation that would establish a single Scottish Police Service and a single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for Scotland and on 8 September 2011 the Cabinet Secretary for Justice Published an outline business case and consultation document (*“Keeping Scotland Safe and Strong: A Consultation on Reforming Police and Fire and Rescue Services in Scotland”*) seeking views on proposals for the detailed operation of these services.

3.1.3 The Council, at their meeting on 6 October 2011, considered a report proposing arrangements for responding to this further consultation, where it agreed that the Executive Director of Customer Services coordinate a draft response, which follows the Council's existing policy position, in consultation with the Leader and Depute Leader of the Council, and submit to the Scottish Government before the consultation deadline of 2 November 2011.

## **3.2 Local Scrutiny and Engagement Implementation Network (LSEIN)**

3.2.1 On 21 December 2011 the Cabinet Secretary for Justice wrote to local authority Chief Executives, Chief Constables and Chief Fire Officers advising that The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill, which would be introduced to the Scottish Parliament in January 2012, included a framework for the delivery of local scrutiny and engagement arrangements which would need to be implemented when the legislation is enacted.

3.2.2 In order to support the development and smooth implementation of local frameworks the Cabinet Secretary advised in his letter that the Scottish Government would be establishing a LSEIN and invited local authorities and police and fire & rescue partners to express their interest in playing an active role in the Network, either as Pathfinders, or Networkers. On this basis a report was tabled at the Council meeting on 19 January 2012 where it was agreed that the Council should become a Pathfinder, and seek agreement from the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer to submit a joint expression of interest.

3.2.3 In the period since becoming designated as one of the Pathfinder areas, a number of pathfinder and LSEIN meetings have taken place, including;

- a) Mark Patterson – Project Executive, and Duncan Beamish – Project Manager from the Scottish Government on 6 March 2012 met with the Council's Chief Executive, Executive Director of Customer Services and the Pathfinder leads from Strathclyde Police - Russell Dunn, and Strathclyde Fire & Rescue - Paul Connelly on 6 March 2012, to discuss the work that would be carried out by the Scottish Government and the intended approach to be taken by the Argyll and Bute Pathfinder in delivering the new arrangements.
- b) 3 LSEIN meetings held on 19 April, 25 June and 26 September – these meetings have been attended by Executive Director of Customer Services and Councillor Fred Hall (meeting on 26 September) and to date have largely been used as a forum to present the different approaches being adopted by other pathfinders, to update on progress at a national/local level, and to develop and share best practice through the use of case studies. The next meeting is scheduled for 13 December 2012.
- c) Pathfinder partners –engagement is undertaken on an ongoing basis as part of the effective community planning arrangements that are currently in place, and specific meetings have been set up between the pathfinder leads to discuss compliance with the new legislative

requirements and the development of the local scrutiny and engagement arrangements for the Argyll and Bute Pathfinder.

### **3.3 Appointment of Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer**

3.3.1 It was announced on 25 September that The Scottish Police Authority has appointed Strathclyde Police Chief Constable Stephen House to lead the new Police Service of Scotland as its first Chief Constable. Mr House has now taken up post and will be working closely with Vic Emery, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority that will maintain and provide strategic leadership to the Police Service of Scotland to ensure a smooth transition to the Police Service of Scotland, which goes live on 1 April 2013.

3.3.2 It has also been announced that Alasdair Hay will be the first Chief Officer of the new single Fire and Rescue Service. Mr Hay will initially be based at Perth Community Fire Station, where the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will have its interim Headquarters, and will work closely with David Dalziel, Chair of Chief Fire Officers Association Scotland, in making the transition to the single service as smooth and successful as possible.

### **3.4 Review of Community Planning and Future Governance Arrangements**

3.4.1 Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue are key partners in the Argyll and Bute Community Partnership and following the implementation of the new single services in April 2013, they will continue in this role. The future governance and local scrutiny and engagement arrangements for the Pathfinder are therefore explicitly linked to Community Planning processes and will be considered alongside the current review of Community Planning at a national level and the development of the new Community Plan and governance arrangements for Argyll and Bute.

#### Scottish Government/COSLA Review of Community Planning

3.4.2 Following the publication of a report by the Christie Commission in June 2011, on the future delivery of public services, the Scottish Government and COSLA subsequently published a shared Statement of Ambition. This put Community Planning at the heart of an outcome based approach to public services in Scotland and made clear that effective Community Planning will be at the core of public service reform, and together with SOA's, will provide the foundation for effective partnership working within which wider reform initiatives, such as the establishment of single police and fire services will happen. Work to produce detailed proposals for change based on the Statement of Ambition is now underway, with a national group having been set up, chaired by Pat Watters, immediate past President of COSLA and co-chair of the Review, to play a pivotal role in implementing and communicating the overarching vision for community planning and SOA's, identifying and addressing issues that have a national dimension and building on the skills and capacity of partnerships.

#### Development of Argyll and Bute Community Plan

- 3.4.3 The new Community Plan is due for approval in March 2013. The proposed approach to developing the plan was agreed at the CPP Management Committee on 22 August 2012, where a 3 stage approach covering planning and prioritisation, performance management, and financial management was approved. The Head of Strategic Finance is leading on this project for the Council, and leads have also been nominated for Police (Barry McEwan), Fire (Jim Scott), and NHS (Elaine Garman). Regular progress reports will be submitted to the CPP Management Committee and the first of these was tabled at the meeting held on 17 October 2012.

#### Local Scrutiny and Engagement Arrangements

- 3.4.4 Arising from the discussions held with the other Pathfinder leads, and the current review of community planning and development of the Argyll and Bute Community Plan a number of ideas/proposals on the shape of the future local scrutiny arrangements have been deliberated. A report will be going to the Council in December which sets out these proposals, and the Committee will be updated thereafter.

### **4.0 SUMMARY**

- 4.1 This report provides an update on the progress that has been made to date with regard to the Police and Fire & Rescue Reform agenda, and advises that the proposed future local scrutiny and engagement arrangements for Argyll and Bute will be reported to the Council in December 2012

### **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

**5 December 2012**

**Douglas Hendry  
Executive Director – Customer Services**

**Jane Fowler  
Head of Improvement and HR**