



Minute of COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum – 13 December 2021

Present

Cllr Maureen Chalmers (Chair)
Cllr Ciaran McRae
Cllr Anne Stirling
Cllr Craig Fotheringham
Cllr Daniel Hampsey
Cllr Christina Roberts
Cllr Graham Barton
Cllr Gordan Low
Cllr Owen O'Donnell
Cllr David Graham
Cllr Paul McCabe
Cllr Peter Bloomfield
Cllr Donald Reid
Cllr Tom McEwan
Cllr Marie McGurk
Cllr Allison Duncan
Cllr Philip Saxton
Cllr Davie McLachlan

COSLA
Aberdeen City Council (Sub)
Aberdeenshire Council
Angus Council
Argyll and Bute Council (Sub)
Dundee City Council
East Ayrshire Council
East Dunbartonshire Council
East Renfrewshire Council
Fife Council
Glasgow City Council
Moray Council
North Ayrshire Council
Perth and Kinross Council
Renfrewshire Council
Shetland Islands Council
South Ayrshire Council
South Lanarkshire Council

Anil Gupta
Nicola Dickie
Elisa Bevacqua
Martyn Evans
Amanda Coulthard
Eleanor Gaw
Martin Smith
Jennifer Galbraith
DCC Malcom Graham
ACC Bex Smith
ACC Tim Mairs
Tom McMahan
Kirsty-Louise Campbell
Tina MacLucas
Sean Fitzgerald
Stuart Lewis
Lorraine Gillies

COSLA
COSLA
COSLA
SPA Chair
SPA
SPA
SPA
SPA
Police Scotland
Scottish Government
Community Safety Network

Apologies

Cllr Holden
Cllr Linda Dorward
Cllr Norman Hampshire
Cllr Val Walker

Clackmannanshire Council
Dumfries and Galloway Council
East Lothian Council
Edinburgh City Council

Cllr Stacey Devine
Cllr Graham McKenzie
Cllr David Wilson
Cllr Stuart McKenzie
Cllr Stevenson
Cllr David Dawson
Cllr Julie Pirone
Cllr Flanagan
Cllr Gurpreet Johal
Cllr George Murray
Cllr Craig Meek

Falkirk Council
Highland Council
Inverclyde Council
Midlothian Council
North Lanarkshire Council
Orkney Islands Council
Scottish Borders Council
Stirling Council
West Dunbartonshire Council
Western Isles Council
West Lothian Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Chalmers welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the re-established COSLA Scrutiny Conveners Forum.

2. Joint address by SPA Chair and DCC Malcom Graham

Martyn Evans gave a brief address, which touched on the importance for the SPA of ongoing engagement with local government. Mr Evans mentioned the recent joint SPA and Police Scotland regional meetings which took place in October this year, with a further round being scheduled for spring 2023. Mr Evans also mentioned the SPA 2021-22 Annual Report and Accounts for policing which was published in October 2022 [spa-annual-report-21-22_final.pdf](#). DCC Graham's input focused on the challenges and uncertainties caused by the current budgetary landscape. DCC Graham emphasised the value of strong partnerships locally between councils and Police Scotland, and the importance of ongoing work to improve scrutiny and accountability of policing at a local level.

3. Note of previous meeting

The note of the previous meeting held in December 2021 was agreed as an accurate record.

4. Terms of Reference

Members agreed the draft Terms of Reference

5. Strategic Police Plan Review and Midpoint Review of the Strategic Police Priorities (Amanda Coulthard and Elisa Bevacqua)

This paper updated the Forum on the development of the Strategic Police Plan for the period 2023-26. Before finalising the Strategic Police Plan for 2023-26, a joint consultation exercise will be undertaken using the Authority's citizen space engagement platform. The final Strategic Police Plan 2023-26 will be revised to reflect feedback from the wider consultation exercise before being presented to the Authority for final approval in Spring 2023.

The paper also sets out COSLA's submission to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans as part of the 2022 midpoint review of the Strategic Police Priorities.

6. Progress update on development of performance framework/Annual Police Plan (Tom McMahon, Christina MacLucas, Kirsty-Louise Campbell)

This paper updated the Forum on Police Scotland's approach to develop the Chief Constable's operational policing plan for 2023 onwards along with the refresh of the Police Scotland Performance Framework. Members noted the update.

7 Police Scotland Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and 'That Guy' 2022 Campaign (ACC Bex Smith)

This report provided the Forum with an overview of the development of Police Scotland's Violence against Women and Girls Strategy. Police Scotland has also launched its That Guy II campaign in October 2022, which builds on previous Police Scotland sexual crime prevention campaigns. Members watched the campaign video. The Chair encouraged Members to share the Campaign across their networks. Questions and comments were provided by Members, including on the need to increase engagement and awareness with the male population in the 18 to 34 age group. In response to this, ACC Smith advised that Police Scotland had just launched its domestic abuse campaign 'Is That Me'.

8 Development of Local Police Plans 2023-26 and Progress on Implementation of Recommendations from COSLA-Police Scotland-SPA Local Police Plan Review (PS Report)

This paper updated the Forum on Police Scotland's approach to develop the Local Police Plans (LPPs) 2023-26; engagement with Local Authorities, the public and communities. The LPPs for 2020-2023 are being reviewed and refreshed at present ahead of 1 April 2023 and will cover a three-year period until 2026.

Members noted the update. Comments from Members focused on the current pressures faced by both Police Scotland and councils and the impact this will have on availability of services and crime rates. The need for strong relationships between councils and Police Scotland was emphasised, as well as the importance of exploring opportunities for increased collaboration, co-ordination and asset sharing. Nicola Dickie confirmed this was actively being looked at by COSLA, Police Scotland and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executive (SOLACE) and committed to bringing back updates to the Forum on how this work progresses.

9. Draft SPA-COSLA Police Scrutiny Guidance for Elected Members (Elisa Bevacqua and Martin Smith)

Members were presented with the draft SPA-COSLA Framework for comment. The draft Framework describes the relationship between Local Police Plans and other strategic plans at a national and local level and suggests areas where scrutiny may need a focus at different times during the planning cycle. Members were happy with the Framework.

10. Update on SPA and PS Community Confidence Project - planned for delivery in P&K, Highland, North Ayrshire & Fife (Dr Jennifer Galbraith)

Jennifer provided a presentation on this project which was welcomed by Members. A Participatory Budgeting project being led by Police Scotland with Caithness Voluntary Group (CVG) was also mentioned during the discussion following the presentation. It was agreed that further updates on these and other relevant projects would be provided to this Forum as appropriate.

The next COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum to be re-arranged on a date to be confirmed, likely in April 2023.