

**Presentation from Martyn Evans, Chair of the SPA and Policing Update**

**Summary and Recommendations**

This report provides a briefing for Martyn Evans, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority's presentation to the Community Wellbeing Board. As well as an update on Local Government's scrutiny of policing and joint working with Police Scotland/SPA.

This report invites Members to:

- i. Provide observations or questions on the presentation from Martyn Evans, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority; and
- ii. Note the current work on scrutiny of policing and the joint work with Police Scotland and the SPA.

**References**

Previous reports:

- COSLA Community Wellbeing Board - 17 Sept 2021
- COSLA Community Wellbeing Board - 18 June 2021
- COSLA Community Wellbeing Board - 5 March 2021
- COSLA Community Wellbeing Board - 18 May 2020
- COSLA Community Wellbeing Board - 6 March 2020

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**November 2021**

## **Presentation from Martyn Evans, Chair of the SPA and Policing Update**

### **Purpose**

1. This report provides a briefing for Martyn Evans, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority's presentation to the Community Wellbeing Board meeting. As well as an update on Local Government's scrutiny of policing and joint working with Police Scotland/SPA.

### **Current COSLA Position**

#### **Governance - Joint Working with Police Scotland/SPA**

2. Members will be aware that Martyn Evans, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) accompanied by Ian Livingstone, Chief Constable of Police Scotland provided a joint address at the COSLA Leaders meeting on 27 August. This reflected on amongst other things Police Scotland's Annual Plan and our partnership working.
3. Martyn Evans at the Leaders Meeting underlined that Local Govt is a critical partner and mentioned the SPA had drafted an engagement plan with local authorities that was considered at our previous Community Wellbeing Board meeting in September, which received broad agreement from members.
4. We anticipate that Martyn Evans in his presentation to Board members will cover engagement with Local Authorities and work to improve Local Police Plans that is still in progress, as well as service improvement. In addition, Martyn Evans may reflect on current events such as COP26 and Police Scotland's Operation Urram in response to it.
5. Martyn Evans may also cover how Police Scotland/SPA are addressing equalities and diversity issues as well as confidence in policing. In addition, he may touch upon call handling and progress in the use of technology.
6. Members may wish to suggest topics or themes that could be discussed with Police Scotland/SPA similar to the engaging virtual event that was held on drones (Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems - RPAS) some months ago. In addition, members may wish to provide reflections on how the COP26 Event went and if they were aware of any local impacts on local policing.

#### **COP 26**

7. Members will be aware that the UN Conference of the Parties 26 (COP 26) has been a major global event that Scotland has been hosting this month at the Scottish Event Campus, Glasgow over a two week period.
8. To date, COP26 has been the biggest and most complex event ever staged in Scotland. It has involved the largest mass mobilisation of UK police officers at a cost of around £70m with about 140 world leaders attending the initial two days. A main security objective has been to protect them, the 30,000 or so official delegates, as well as those wishing to lawfully support, protest and march.
9. At the Conference Police Scotland have taken seriously their duty to promote the human rights of those in Scotland. As a result, Police Scotland have been in regular liaison with a variety of activist groups and have been accessing UK and international police

evidence. Police Scotland have been aware that various protest groups were preparing activities on 'an industrial scale'.

10. It was expected that direct action would be planned for sites beyond the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow. As a result, there has been a permanent Police presence at sites such as the Grangemouth complex, various hotels as well as airports and other transport routes, within and beyond Glasgow. A planning assumption before the event feeding the approach was that there required to be capacity to handle 350 additional arrests in the Glasgow area every day during the main event. During the earlier days of the event and up to the 4<sup>th</sup> November there were less than 30 arrests and fewer charges.
11. At this stage Police Scotland have been adopting a 'business as usual approach' during the period to deal with their ordinary roles. However, we understand Local Resilience Partnerships have been activated and there have been arrangements to redeploy police should the circumstances require this.

#### COSLA's Work with SPA/Police Scotland - Local Police Plans and SPA Engagement Plan

12. COSLA have participated with the SPA and Police Scotland in meetings to progress a joint review of Local Police Plans. Recently these activities have included focus groups involving local elected members and officers.
13. Members are asked to provide views or comments on how Local Police Plans can be improved. As well as any reflections on the recent focus groups that were held should they have participated in them.
14. Members will recall that the SPA produced their engagement plan with local authorities that was considered at our previous meeting and is set out again in Annex 1 for reference. The plan sets out a series of activities that the SPA will undertake to engage with Local Government including offers of annual engagement with COSLA Leaders and 3 virtual area based meetings each year with Police Conveners, subject to local demand – one for North; East and West of Scotland areas.
15. COSLA have also been invited by the SPA to continue to contribute to the development of research to ascertain why there are lower levels of confidence in policing in disadvantaged areas of the country and to establish how this issue can be addressed.

#### COSLA-SOLACE- Police Scotland Engagement Group

16. A further meeting of the COSLA-SOLACE- Police Scotland Engagement Group for senior officers will be held on 18 January 2022 that will be jointly chaired by Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr and Steve Grimmond, Chair of SOLACE. The meeting will likely discuss Covid 19 responses and road safety issues as well as other items to be confirmed.
17. At the previous meeting of the Engagement Group in September on collaborative working Angela Scott, Chief Executive of Aberdeen City Council provided a useful presentation on the progress made in community planning in Aberdeen City, particularly through the joint work of the local authority and Police Scotland. The presentation set out how it has translated some of the Christie Report's recommendations into tangible partnership actions locally.

#### COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum

18. The next COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum is to be held on the afternoon of Thursday 2 December. It is expected that the agenda will cover the Local Police Plan Review, Dame Elish Angiolini Review update, Buffer Zones, 'That Guy' Strategy, Spiking incidents and reflections on COP26 (Operation Urram).

## **Next Steps**

19. A further update will be provided to the COSLA Community Wellbeing Board on policing at the next meeting.

**November 2021**

## **ANNEX 1**

### **Scottish Police Authority Local Government Engagement Plan 2021-2023**

Improving the Scottish Police Authority's engagement with local government and local scrutiny conveners, is the Authority's most critical engagement priority in the year ahead.

This plan sets out how the Authority will engage with local government partners 2021-23. Local government is the only key sector for the Authority which has a dedicated and detailed engagement plan for the coming year.

#### **Background**

The Authority and Police Scotland are jointly committed to engaging, listening, learning, and adapting, ensuring that citizens are able to influence decisions that affect them, and can trust the decisions taken about the future direction of policing.

We have complementary but separate roles in engaging with stakeholders and citizens, built on shared values of integrity, honesty, respect, and the commitment to human rights.

The Authority's engagement will:

- Complement Police Scotland's activities.
- Be collaborative.
- Support the strategic direction for policing in Scotland, and the outcomes set out in our Corporate Plan.
- Reinforce the role, responsibilities and statutory duties of the Authority, and promote the policing principles;
- Promote and seek assurance on Police Scotland's responsiveness and accessibility to local communities and their needs;
- Seek independent assessment of views and attitudes to policing issues to ensure the public's voice is appropriately considered in decision-making.

This engagement plan is underpinned by a joint Memorandum of Understanding between the Authority and the Chief Constable, to ensure early dialogue on change in policing and matters of significant public interest.

#### **How the Authority will engage**

- The SPA Chair will attend and contribute to the COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners' Forum, at the invitation of the Forum Chair.
- The Authority will offer 3 virtual area based meetings each year subject to local demand – one for North; East and West respectively. These will involve the Authority Chair, with invitations to Local Scrutiny Conveners and the ACC for Local Policing in each area. The SPA and local authorities will jointly shape the agenda for these meetings.
- Regular strategic discussions for the SPA Chair and Chief Executive with the COSLA Presidential Team and Community Well Being Spokesperson.
- Regular meetings for the SPA Chair and Chief Executive, COSLA Chief Executive, and Chair of SOLACE to discuss the work programme and related issues.
- The Authority will offer a network of SPA key officer contacts for local authorities, to build relationships, work collaboratively, and link directly with local scrutiny arrangements and local partnerships.

- The Authority will consult annually with each local authority to inform its Annual Report.
- If local authorities have significant issues which remain outstanding or unresolved, they can bring these to the attention of the Authority's Chief Executive, and if required to the SPA Chair.
- The Authority will, jointly with the Chief Constable, offer an annual presentation to COSLA Leaders linked to the Annual Report on Policing.
- The Authority, along with Police Scotland, will offer thematic meetings with local scrutiny conveners on policing issues of significant public interest.

### **Key areas of focus identified 2021-23**

- Localism
- Social Justice
- Emerging Technology
- The use of evidence in policing

### **Ongoing Review and Improvement**

This framework offers significantly more engagement between the SPA and local government, with a more structured approach, specific commitments, and the flexibility to respond to emerging issues or concerns.

Local government partners will be invited to offer feedback on how it is working in the first half of 2022, to identify any further improvements for 2022/23.