

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	19 January 2022
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	SPA Chief Executive's Report
Presented By	Chris Brown, Acting Chief Executive (Resources)
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached:	No

PURPOSE

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Acting Chief Executives since the previous Authority Meeting.

Members are recommended to consider this report and to raise any matters for clarification or further detail with the Acting Chief Executive (Resources).

1. Background

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on key SPA activity which is not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Draft 2022-23 Budget

- 2.1 On 9 December 2021, the Scottish Government announced its draft budget for 2022-23. This draft commits to maintaining and supporting policing in the year ahead and would allow the Authority to again set a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year which is to be welcomed.
- 2.2 Capital investment in policing remains the biggest challenge and the while the draft budget would support the continuation of essential improvements across our technology, estate and fleet, it would not allow policing to realise the ambitions set out in our 5-year Capital Strategy at the pace we would like. We continue to work with Police Scotland and the Scottish Government to ensure the implications of this are clearly understood.
- 2.3 A series of meetings involving the Chair, Chief Constable and the Chairs of the Resources and People Committee have been scheduled to considering the options and inform the budget to be presented for member's approval on 23 March 2022.

3. COP26 Polling

- 3.1 In November 2021, the Authority commissioned independent representative public polling of over 1000 citizens in the Greater Glasgow area following COP26. The aim was to provide the Authority with additional information on the views, attitudes and insights of residents in relation to policing the conference.
- 3.2 Insights from the polling suggest that the public in Glasgow supported the policing approach. The key findings from the survey conducted in November 2021 are:
- 60% of respondents supported Police Scotland's approach to policing during COP26;
 - Women were more supportive than men at 61% compared to 58%;

- 77% thought that policing campaigners and protestors at events like COP26 was a difficult challenge for the police;
- 63% thought Police Scotland had performed well in making sure marches and protests during conference were well organised;
- 65% said Police Scotland had done well in making sure that those on marches and protests were allowed to make their voices heard;
- 56% thought Police Scotland had done well to limit any additional disruption caused by peaceful but unlawful protest tactics such as road blocking;
- Only 3% of respondents had direct experience of participation in events, protests or marches related to COP26.

3.2 This independent analysis chimes with the initial insights of key partners and Police Scotland's own data and will inform the lessons learned review currently underway.

4. Scottish Information Commissioner – Level 2 Intervention (FOI)

4.1 In October 2020 the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) opened a Level 2 intervention in relation to the Authority's compliance with freedom of information (FOI) law. This followed a number of quarters throughout 2018-19 and 2019-20 where at least one in five requests were not being responded to within the statutory maximum timescale of 20 working days.

4.2 The intervention required the Authority to carry out a self-assessment and to produce and implement an action plan aimed at improving performance and achieving a target of at least 90% of responses on time for at least 3 consecutive quarters.

4.3 The SIC confirmed on 22 December 2021 that the Authority has exceeded that target, with 100% of responses issued on time in January to September 2021. This is a direct result of a number of improvements:

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- The refreshed approach to FOI implemented by the Authority, with responsibility assigned to the Corporate Management Team, and more active senior-level oversight of FOI performance;
- The implementation of new policies and procedures for managing FOI requests, including in relation to collating information internally, consulting third parties where appropriate, and responding promptly as well as within 20 working days;
- The enhancement of the SPA's FOI function, with additional staff recruited or assigned and external training provided to five members of staff, as well as improved internal training and communication and an emphasis on making information available proactively.

4.4 The SIC has now concluded and closed this intervention and I would like to personally thank Jackie McKelvie and her team in the Corporate Management function who have worked tirelessly alongside the Information Management team and others to drive these improvements.

4.5 The Authority remains committed to maintaining this performance with further improvements in relation to accessibility and disclosure of information planned for the year ahead.

5. Oversight of Change

5.1 The Authority agreed an approach to the oversight of change across policing in February 2020, which was subject to review in late 2021. Following this review, the approach will be enhanced further with the Authority's Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee playing a lead role in the overall coordination of the Authority's change oversight. This will be supported by more regular change oversight reporting to the committee, with relevant updates on key programmes continuing to be provided by way of Committee Chairs reports.

5.2 These enhancements do not require formal change to committee terms of reference and Authority staff will begin working with Police Scotland colleagues to implement the approach. We will review these arrangements after a year of implementation.

6. Independent Custody Visiting – Annual Review 2020/21

- 6.1 At the end of 2021 the SPA published its [Annual Review of the work of the volunteer delivered Independent Custody Visiting Service](#). In her foreword the Vice Chair recognised the continued commitment through these unprecedented times and the Authority's gratitude to the volunteer visitors and our own ICVS team for their resilience, determination, flexibility and commitment to ensuring the alternative arrangements continue to offer the Authority assurance in respect of the welfare and rights of Police Scotland's detainees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to consider and discuss the contents of this report.