



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Authority Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>23 March 2023</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>COSLA, Haymarket</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>SPA Chief Executive's Report</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Lynn Brown, Chief Executive</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>Yes – Summary Report from Scottish Railway Policing Committee held on 2 March 2023.</b>

**PURPOSE**

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Chief Executive since the last Authority Meeting.

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

## 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1. This report provides Members with an update on key Authority business not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

## 2 REVIEW OF STRATEGIC POLICE PLAN

- 2.1 Following the Authority's agreement last month, a [public engagement exercise has launched on the draft Joint Strategy for Policing 2023](#). This will be open for feedback on the Authority's Citizen Space portal until Sunday 23 April 2023. Comments and feedback will inform the final draft of the Joint Strategy for Policing, due to be presented to the Authority in May 2023.

## 3 CHIEF CONSTABLE RECRUITMENT

- 3.1 A project team has been established to provide dedicated resource to support the Chief Constable recruitment process, following Sir Iain Livingstone QPM's announcement of his intention to retire in the summer. This is a major undertaking by the Authority with significant support provided by Police Scotland's People and Development team and specialist support from the College of Policing.
- 3.2 The People Committee in September 2022 considered and approved a Senior Officer Recruitment Process that was based on lessons learned from previous recruitment's including that of the current Chief Constable and which also took on board current best practice in the recruitment, selection and appointment of Senior Police Officers. We will be launching a recruitment process in the coming weeks.

## 4 CREATION OF THE POLICE NEGOTIATING BOARD FOR SCOTLAND (PNBS)

- 4.1 In my February 2023 report I confirmed legislation to implement PNBS would shortly progress with SPA staff developing a response, which would be reviewed and informed by SPA members currently on the PNB. A short consultation commenced on 28 February 2023 and closed on 13 March 2023. In the Authority response it was recognised that the proposed legislation would simply implement the intentions of Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 and therefore it was supported without any proposed amendments. As part of the Authority response some minor comments were outlined in relation to the proposed constitution and positive recognition was provided on the commitment to set out draft procedures for the PNBS to outline agreed ways of working. These procedures will be a key

enabler to ensuring the PNBS operates as effectively and efficiently as possible for all parties going forward.

## **5. SCOTTISH RAILWAY POLICING COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 A meeting of the Scottish Railways Policing Committee (SRPC) took place on Thursday 2 March 2023 and was hosted at the Authority's offices in Glasgow. The Authority was represented by Board Members Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly.
- 5.2 A full report from the March 2023 meeting is included at Appendix A. The next meeting is due to take place on Thursday 1 June 2023.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this report.

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**Summary report from the  
Scottish Railway Policing Committee**

**Thursday 2 March 2023**

**SPA Members – Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly**

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**Risk Profile**

On consideration of the risk profile of BTP, members requested that work is done to identify any risks which would appropriately be owned by this committee. This will be progressed for a future committee discussion.

**Policing Plan Performance quarter 2 (Q3) 22/23**

Violence remains the key challenge in Scotland. It was noted that while performance has improved in the last quarter this was in part due to reduced footfall due to recent industrial action. The Committee noted excellent solve rates in Scotland, and the good work around the crime prevention strategy which is reducing incident demand.

Members recognised the positive work to protect and support vulnerable people, noting a decrease in the number of people in crisis needing support this quarter. Members spoke of the excellent presentation by Superintendent Arlene Wilson of BTP at the Authority mental health event held in December, and it was agreed that this presentation should be brought to a future meeting of the committee. It was noted that the triage pilot that was the subject of the presentation is now being rolled out beyond Scotland as good practice.

Members discussed the issue of trespassing and the importance it had in relation to public confidence and reliability. In quarter 3 there were 13,859 minutes of disruption caused by trespass, which was a 4.3% increase from the previous quarter, showing as red on the performance dashboard. It was agreed that BTPA would write a letter to all stakeholders and partners seeking to gain their support to collaborative working on an anti-trespass strategy. An update will be provided on this work at a future meeting.

## **Force Crime Assessment and Allocation Policy**

The Committee received an update on the roll out of the Force Crime Assessment and Allocation Policy in Scotland. This policy outlines the decision-making process undertaken to determine if a crime will be allocated for investigation.

A set of criteria is used for this decision, which includes the level of threat, risk and harm, as well as the complexity of each reported crime, the proportionate lines of enquiry available to investigators and the likelihood of a successful prosecution or outcome.

Members asked whether there were any independent audits of decisions made in line with this policy. BTP advised that this was considered by the Force Crime and Incident Registrar but there had not recently been a fully independent audit.

### **Professionalism**

In considering this item, committee noted the particular importance and timeliness of this in the context of events taking place elsewhere in the UK policing system. BTPA advised that the approach being taken was very much in line with the approach of the Authority and Police Scotland in relation to continuous integrity screening as presented to Complaints and Conduct Committee the day before. It was noted that a key difference for BTPA is that it is the actual employer for every officer in the BTP.

### **Industry Voice**

The Committee welcomed the increased attendance from industry representatives, both in person and online. One issue had been raised in advance by Network Rail, and this related to the previous conversation around trespass, asking what could be done to both prevent it and tackle it. Members repeated their commitment to starting a dialogue in this space with the intention of joint working in the future.

### **Thank you and goodbye to Bill Matthews**

Committee members from the Authority thanked Bill Matthews for his time on the Committee, noting that he had been the Chair since the very start and that he accomplished a lot to develop and improve the Committee along the way. Members recognised Bill's focus on public interest and the needs of all stakeholders.