



Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	24 November 2022
Location	COSLA, Edinburgh
Title of Paper	SPA Chief Executive's Report
Presented By	Lynn Brown, Chief Executive
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	No

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 THE STRATEGIC POLICE PLAN

- 2.1. In late 2021 the Authority Chair and Chief Constable tasked a Joint Working Group, of Authority and Police Scotland staff, with undertaking a review of the current Strategic Police Plan.
- 2.2. The evidence review was delivered in summer 2022, based on a strategic horizon scanning exercise and landscape review and an evidence-based review of progress made to date against the current plan objectives. This has informed an analysis of the current Plan, assessing its continued relevance and identifying any gaps or other areas that may require enhancement or re-emphasis. This concluded that:
 - There is evidence of good progress to deliver on the ambitions set by strategic outcomes;
 - The outcomes remain relevant to current and future context for delivery and reflect the key focus areas identified;
 - The outcomes are set at a broad strategic level which enables the capture of known and emerging focus areas during the period of delivery and are reflective of the newly published Scottish Government Justice Vision;
 - The outcomes are currently shaping aligned plans for delivery in 2022-23 and the development of a 5-year Police Scotland delivery plan covering the period 2023-2028; and
 - The objectives, while broadly reflective and relevant to current and future delivery context, require some amendments or enhancements to reflect increased importance of key areas identified by the review process.
- 2.3. The Authority, in collaboration with Police Scotland, sought feedback from stakeholders to inform a draft Strategic Police Plan ahead of wider consultation and engagement. A summary of the review to date was shared with strategic stakeholders, including Scottish Government, HMICS and Local Authorities. The responses received, were supportive of the overall direction with some specific suggestions made which have informed the review discussion within the SPA and Police Scotland.

2.4. Stakeholders supported the view that additional emphasis is required in the new Plan in relation to:

- tackling cyber-/online criminality (including sexual and hate crime);
- pursuing public health preventative approaches; strengthening the partnership response to challenges relating to mental health and vulnerability, including the adoption of more person-centred, trauma-informed approaches;
- embracing new technologies to widen access and participation from communities;
- tackling violence against women and girls and promoting positive workplace behaviours and culture; and
- emphasising rights-based, ethical and inclusive policing practices.
- acknowledging and addressing the effect of the current cost-of-living crisis affecting many sections of society and some communities more severely;
- responding, through collaboration and efficiency measures, to the expected constraints on future public spending; and
- recognising the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly on young people and their mental health.

2.5. Several stakeholders also commented that greater emphasis would be welcomed in relation to:

- acknowledging and addressing the effect of the current cost-of-living crisis affecting many sections of society and some communities more severely;
- responding, through collaboration and efficiency measures, to the expected constraints on future public spending; and
- recognising the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly on young people and their mental health.

2.6. In September 2022, the Scottish Government launched a mid-term review of the Strategic Police Priorities, to ensure that the priorities,

agreed in 2019, remain appropriate and relevant for the next three years. Any revisions to the Strategic Police Priorities as a result of this review, expected to conclude in early 2023, will be reflected in the final draft Strategic Police Plan for the period 2023-26, and a final assessment made to ensure strategic alignment of the outcomes in the plan to the revised priorities.

- 2.7. Before finalising the Strategic Police Plan for 2023-26, a joint consultation exercise will be undertaken using the Authority's citizen space engagement platform. This exercise will seek views on the proposed outcomes and areas of focus within the Strategic Police Plan, and any areas which respondents feel are missing or require a different emphasis. The public consultation exercise will run for around six weeks, advertised through websites and social media channels of both the Authority and Police Scotland.
- 2.8. 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.

3 PUBLICATION OF THE 2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

- 3.1 The Authority's [Annual Report and Accounts \(ARA\)](#) for 2021-22 was laid before the Scottish Parliament on Thursday 28 October and a designed version of the document published on the Authority's website. The Authority's new bilingual logo was rolled out to coincide with publication of our ARA. It is a requirement of all Scottish public bodies to have a bilingual logo and we committed to developing one in our previous Gaelic Language Plan. The new logo also incorporates an icon which will be more effective on digital and social media platforms.
- 3.2 The ARA covers the reporting year to 31 March 2022 and confirms that policing managed its finances during 2021-22 within the budget set by the Authority.
- 3.3 The ARA received a clean bill of health from Audit Scotland who published their [2021/22 Annual Audit Report](#) and confirmed that for the second year in a row, no section 22 report needed to be submitted to Parliament. The ARA was prepared on time and to a high standard with good progress made on prior year recommendations. They found that the financial statements provided a true and fair view, had been properly prepared with systems of internal controls working effectively. Eleven new recommendations had been made and accepted that will continue to

drive improvement across policing with the majority of findings anticipated to be complete during 2023.

- 3.4 Audit Scotland also singled out the [Integrated Assurance Statement](#) provided to the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee as a particular example of good practice. They highlighted *"the clarity of reporting, including the use of infographics, made the statement engaging and accessible"*.

4 CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – RESOURCE SPENDING REVIEW

- 4.1 DCO David Page, James Gray, Chief Finance Officer and I attended the Criminal Justice Committee on Wednesday 26 October. The session was focused on the Resource Spending Review and the implications for the policing budget next year if a flat cash settlement was to be awarded as indicated.
- 4.2 Our [written submission](#) ahead of the session was informed by the numerous budget development discussions to date. Explaining the scale and implications of a flat cash settlement on policing, ahead of any budget announcement, remains a focus for the Authority at this stage.

5 APCC & NPCC PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

- 5.1 I attended the APCC and NPCC Partnership Summit at the beginning of November, the first the Authority has attended since becoming associate members of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners this year (APCC). The summit presented a good opportunity to learn more about practice in other jurisdictions and identify areas of learning for oversight of policing in Scotland; allowing connections to be made with commissioners in key comparator areas.
- 5.2 The Authority is in the process of joining the Association of Policing and Crime Chief Executive's (APAC²E). APAC²E is a professional body which represents chief executives / chiefs of staff and other senior staff within offices of police and crime commissioners. The Association convenes a number of meetings throughout the year to discuss mutual areas of interest, share best practice and expertise.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this report.