

SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

Meeting	SPA Board Meeting
Date and Time	27 October 2015, 10.00 – 12.45
Location	Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling
Title of Paper	Programme for Government – Review of Police Governance
Item Number	9
Presented By	John Foley
For Approval / For Information	For Approval
Appendix Attached: Yes or No	No

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the paper is to outline general progress relating to the review of police governance.

BACKGROUND

2. On 3 September 2015, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice asked the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority to undertake an immediate review of governance in policing.

3. The remit of the review will be:

- Ensure that local interests are effectively represented in national scrutiny processes; that decision making on national priorities, policies and programmes takes account of local needs; and that there is appropriate discretion and flexibility within national policies to reflect local circumstances. Recommendations should take account of the outcome of the local scrutiny summit on 23 September.
- Ensure that the Scottish Police Authority has the appropriate structures and skills to undertake effective scrutiny. In so doing identify any skills gaps and development requirements and consider any external expertise that needs to be brought to bear to support scrutiny of major change programmes.
- Review the information flows and communication between Police Scotland the SPA to ensure the authority has all of the material and data required timeously to fulfil its scrutiny function; and the information made available to HMICS, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament to fulfil their respective roles.
- Review the way the Authority works with other stakeholders to ensure its approach is rooted in partnership and contributes effectively to wider policy objectives across the public sector. Propose measures to strengthen communication with partners and communities about the work of the Authority and policing more generally.

4. A Reference Group for the review will be established and taken forward in partnership with a range of partners.

5. The Cabinet Secretary has asked that the review report in six months.

PROGRESS

6. The Authority is currently finalising the membership of the Reference Group, and can confirm that representation will come from a wide range of partners with an interest in policing across Scotland.

7. It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Reference Group will be in November of this year, with at least two further meetings taking place prior to the conclusion of the review.

8. In parallel, the Authority has formed a review team to assist the Chair, and the Reference Group to take forward the review. The main purpose of the review team is to carry out the more detailed work on behalf of the Chair / Reference Group.

9. The review team are currently focussed on building a detailed picture of the current police governance landscape by engaging with partners and drawing together existing reference material.

10. It is expected that this early work will help inform the reference group in taking forward the review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

11. Members are asked to note progress towards the completion of the review of police governance.