

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	29 September 2022
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	SPA Chief Executive's Report
Presented By	Lynn Brown, Chief Executive
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached:	Yes – Appendix A Board and Committee 2023/2024 calendar

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. Her Majesty The Queen

- 2.1 The passing of Her Majesty The Queen has been a deeply sad moment for the nation and our thoughts remain with King Charles and the Royal Family.
- 2.2 During the national mourning period, as mark of respect and to support Police Scotland operational focus, the Authority rescheduled a number of its governance meetings considering only urgent business during this time.
- 2.3 The Resources Committee and Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee met to consider time sensitive business. Both committees held a minutes silence in remembrance of Her Majesty The Queen. All non-urgent business has been rescheduled along with the Policing Performance and People Committees. I want to thank Members for their flexibility during this time.
- 2.4 An additional public holiday was also confirmed for officers and staff to mark the Queen's funeral on Monday 19 September 2022. Where officers and staff were required to work, they will be entitled to the additional day. The funding of associated costs of this additional holiday is under discussion with the Scottish Government.
- 2.5 I can also confirm that work to compile the additional costs of policing Operation Unicorn has begun and it is expected that these costs will be met by HM Treasury.

3. Annual Report and Accounts

- 3.1 Work to compile the Authority's Annual Report and Accounts for 2021/22 has reached its final stage and the Authority will be considering this later on the agenda. This is a significant undertaking each year and I am grateful to the team across Police

Scotland and the Authority for the effort they have put in to complete this work on time and to a high standard.

- 3.2 This is the last year, since the formation of Police Scotland and the SPA where the external audit has been undertaken by Audit Scotland. I want to recognise and thank the Audit Scotland team for their work, support and professionalism in auditing our accounts.

4. Resources Committee – Delegations

- 4.1 [Revised Financial Regulations](#) were approved by the Authority at its meeting on 25 August 2022. The new regulations aim to ensure the Authority's scrutiny and oversight is appropriate, proportionate and adding value.

- 4.2 An important change to the new regulations provides the Resources Committee with appropriate decision making powers, negating the requirement in certain circumstances for further Authority approval. Since the new regulations came into effect, the Resources Committee has met and approved two contracts and one lease. Full details are contained in the Committee Chair's Report at item 4 on the agenda.

5. Review of the Strategic Police Plan

- 5.1 As was reported to Authority in June 2022, the review process for the 2020-2023 Joint Strategy for Policing is underway. The progress made and findings to date have been summarised in a short report and shared with key stakeholders including all Local Authorities, COSLA, HMICS, Audit Scotland and Scottish Government for feedback.
- 5.2 Insights from the review and feedback from the stakeholder engagement exercise will be incorporated into a draft Strategic Police Plan for the period 2023-2026, scheduled to be considered by the Authority in November. Subject to members' endorsement, this draft will then be open to wider public and community engagement.
- 5.3 The Authority is also currently considering its response to the Scottish Government engagement around the Strategic Police Priorities, any likely changes to these priorities will inform the final draft of the strategic police plan for the period 2023-2026 which is

due to be considered by the Authority for approval before the end of March 2023.

6. Confidence and Deprivation Update

- 6.1 The Authority continues to make progress on its long term confidence and deprivation project, working with Police Scotland, the Poverty Alliance and a range of key stakeholders. Work has started in the first project area of Letham, in Perth, with community meetings taking place with support from the local policing team and Local Authority colleagues. This work will inform a community profile for discussion, and lead to the creation of a local community level practitioner group to support delivery of the project in the area.
- 6.2 As has previously been reported, the project will work in a number of small communities to understand, and where possible, take actions to overcome barriers to participation and involvement which may improve local experience and perception of, and confidence in, policing.

7. CIPFA Public Finance Professional of the Year

- 7.1 On Wednesday 21 September 2022 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) announced that James Gray, Police Scotland, Chief Financial Officer had been named as Public Finance Professional of the Year. This award recognises the achievements of a public finance professional in delivering excellence and clear benefits in their organisation. I want to express my sincere congratulations on behalf of the Authority.

8. Scottish Railways Policing Committee

- 8.1 A meeting of the Scottish Railways Policing Committee (SRPC) took place on Friday 2 September 2022 and was hosted at Pacific Quay. The SPA was represented by Authority Members Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly.
- 8.2 A full report from the September 2022 meeting is included at Appendix A. The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 22 November 2022.

9. Board and Committee Calendar 2023/2024

- 9.1 The calendar of meetings for the Authority and its committees for the financial year from April 2023 until March 2024 is appended to my report. These dates have been set in liaison with Police Scotland and Forensic Services to take account of reporting requirements and internal governance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this report.

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

2 September 2022

SPA Members – Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly

Policing Plan Performance quarter 1 (Q1) 22/23

The opening quarter of 2022-23 reporting period marked the first restriction-free performance quarter since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. With an increase in volume crime, Q1 saw some trends return to a level more consistent with pre-COVID activity. However, the reduced rail timetable continues to impact upon travel, footfall and offending patterns and types. The rate of crimes per million passenger journeys is starting to reduce in line with footfall increases closer to pre-pandemic levels.

Violence remains the main volume crime group in Scotland, accounting for nearly a third of all notifiable crime for Q1. Assaults are sporadic in nature but can increase in line with higher footfall as well as the increase in activity around the night-time economy.

This quarter shows downward trend in youth-related violence (28% as opposed to 50% for the same period in the previous year). The threat of violence has been a key theme within youth offending; at the end of Q1 this is down by 274. However, there remains an increase in threatening behaviour offences overall, highlighting that this remains a challenging volume offence in Scotland which fluctuates in line with passenger numbers.

The Committee welcomed positive examples of rail industry staff identifying vulnerable persons on the network, and the effectiveness of an embedded Inspector in mitigating minutes lost to disruption. Members requested that future reporting include trend data alongside crimes per number of journeys to promote greater insight.

Joint working Police Scotland / BTP

In this standing update attention was drawn to the ongoing partnership between BTP and Police Scotland to develop and deliver BTP's overarching media strategy. In particular, messaging is being developed in conjunction with Police Scotland and BTP Events Planning, the transport providers, and respective football clubs to ensure joint messaging is delivered ahead of any fans travelling to a match.

This collaborative approach will continue in support of BTP's 'Speak Up, Interrupt' campaign which seeks to address violence against woman and girls by encouraging the public to intervene and report all forms of inappropriate sexual behaviour. The 'Don't be a Bystander' campaign and Railway Guardian App were praised at a recent Ministerial roundtable on 'Spiking'; which noted the importance of raising awareness of the App in advance of the start of university/college semesters and during the freshers' week period.

Members welcomed the update and in particular noted the increased effectiveness of BTP response in rural areas when partnered with Police Scotland.

Strengthening the Industry Voice

Members considered, and welcomed, proposals to strengthen the industry voice in the work of the Committee. From November a standing quarterly agenda item will be established, inviting representatives from the industry to input to the committee on key issues from the agenda. This proposal is also welcomed by industry partners.

BTP Neighbourhood Policing Strategy 2022/25

BTP gave an overview of the [Neighbourhood Policing Strategy 2022-25](#), which outlines the fundamental role of neighbourhood policing in operational policing of the railway. It was noted that key stations across the railway network have an enhanced presence of Neighbourhood Policing; consisting of dedicated Neighbourhood Policing teams at locations of greatest threat, risk and harm.

Horizon Scan report

SPA Officers presented the Authority's developing approach to Horizon Scanning and provided an example of an output report. Members of the committee noted the value that the Horizon Scanning report in supporting both oversight and policing preparedness. It was agreed that BTPA Officers would feed in to the Horizon Scanning process in future and that the output would be made available to SRPC Committee Members.

Audit and Inspection Report Q1 2022/23

BTP is currently tracking 98 open recommendations from force-wide Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) audits and HMICFRS inspections. Although there are no recommendations that are specific to BTP's activity in Scotland, many of them relate to force-wide systems and processes and are therefore relevant to staff and officers who work in Scotland.

The Committee welcomed the report's content and requested that BTPA Audit and Risk Assurance Committee be mindful of D Division issues when developing the internal audit programme for 2023/24.

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BM Board Meeting

PC People Committee
CC Complaints and Conduct Committee
RC Resources Committee
FS Forensic Services Committee

ARAC Audit Risk and Assurance Committee
PPC Policing Performance Committee
LC Legal Committee