

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	23 March 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:	Yes

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.

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. Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22

- 2.1 The overall responsibility for the completion of the Annual Report and Accounts (ARA) rests with the Accountable Officer. Operational responsibility for completion of ARA sections is split between SPA corporate staff and the Police Scotland (PS) finance team.
- 2.2 At last week's ARAC SPA and PS presented a combined plan and timetable for the completion of the ARA. This is supported by a detailed project management approach including a number of controls meetings between the SPA/ PS teams, Audit Scotland and Accountable Officer throughout.
- 2.3 The draft ARA is expected to be provided to Audit Scotland by Monday 20 June 2022 with the final audited accounts anticipated to be approved by the SPA Board in September 2022.

3. Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Management Review

- 3.1 The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (ICVS) Management Review is due to complete in April 2022. The review is directed towards ensuring the ICVS takes every opportunity to continually improve, maximising the contribution of the Service to the Authority and those who work in or are detained in Police Custody.
- 3.2 The review considers all of the enabling tools and processes that underpin the ICVS, including: (i) governance; (ii) quality of data; (iii) criteria/thresholds for recommendations; (iv) processes (i.e. Human Resources, Legal and otherwise); (v) training and (vi) supporting documentation/handbooks. Some emerging key considerations from the review include:
 - **Key Consideration 1:** A redesign of the ICVS operating model should be undertaken to ensure processes and procedures (including data collection/utilisation) are robust. The redesign should aim to ensure that the visitors' observations provide assurance of good practice in Police Scotland Custody and have maximum impact in the

continuous improvement of the care, welfare and dignity of those held in police custody. This re-design should use, where possible, the good areas of practice identified within the ICVS' current operating model.

- **Key Consideration 2:** The ICVS, in consultation with the Visitors, should redesign the Visitor Form to ensure accurate capture of quantitative and qualitative data which will lead to improved reporting and continuous improvement of Custody provision.
- **Key Consideration 3:** As part of the redesign of the ICVS the Authority should seek to digitise their service.

4. Membership of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)

- 4.1 The [Association of Police and Crime Commissioners](#) (APCC) is a national body which represents Police and Crime Commissioners and Combined Police Authorities in England and Wales. The APCC provides policy support on policing issues, legislation and governance; shares best practice and promotes collaboration; and facilitates leadership and policy events. The APCC wrote to the SPA in November 2021 setting out a number of membership benefits. Barry Sillers, Acting Chief Executive, met with the APCC Chief Executive to discuss membership last month and from 1 April 2022 this year, the Authority will become an Associate member of the APCC. This will give our staff full access to the APCC network and knowledge exchange and opportunities to get involved in their events and workstreams.

5. Scottish Railways Policing Committee

- 5.1 A meeting of the Scottish Railways Policing Committee (SRPC) took place on Tuesday 15 February 2022 via tele and video conference. The SPA was represented by Authority Members Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly.
- 5.2 A full report from the February 2022 meeting is included at Appendix A. The next meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 18 May 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this report.

Summary report from the Scottish Railway Policing Committee

15 February 2022

SPA Members – Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly

Policing Plan Performance Q3 21/22

Members were provided with an update on the performance of BTP's Scotland operations for the October – December 2021 period. Crime totals were 7% lower than Q2, with significant decline around the festive period. Patrols continued to ensure face covering compliance in Q3, with 14,109 interventions made, 75 directions to leave and 8 FPNs issued.

In light of public interest in violence against women and girls (VAWG) BTP Scotland emphasized that the key message to the public was that the railways were safe, with BTP focused on making them even safer, with a zero tolerance approach towards VAWG. BTP Scotland agreed to include greater granularity, on baseline data, in future reporting. BTP Scotland also reassured Members that current crime figures were in line with seasonal trends.

The heightened demand on BTP Scotland and Police Scotland in dealing with vulnerable persons who may have mental health issues was highlighted. BTP are currently in the process of compiling case studies of the impact on BTP of dealing with vulnerability: Members suggested at least one of these case studies could be drawn from BTP Scotland.

Draft Strategic Plan 22/25

Members were presented with a plan on a page summary of the draft Strategic Plan and given an update on its development. It was noted that the current draft was initially socialised with a small 'critical friend' group drawn from a range of industry and passenger partners. Members welcomed the early engagement with the SPA on development of the Strategic Plan and the read across from the draft strategy to the red risks identified on BTPAs risk profile around People and Partnership working.

Draft Policing Plan 22/25

The Committee was presented with the draft Scotland (D Division) Policing Plan. It was noted that the plan is the product of broad engagement including a consultation session in Scotland with industry and passengers which was supported by SPA Members.

Members encouraged the Executive/BTP to consider how best to engage on Policing Plan development and ongoing performance at a local level, noting that a move towards a three-year plan enabled BTPA to design a local engagement framework. The SPA indicated that engagement with local scrutiny convenors would allow regular feedback on BTP local activity.

Thematic: The Victim Experience / Legitimacy

The Deputy Chief Constable highlighted BTP Scotland's high performance compared to BTP across the UK. The DCC reassured Members that a review of screened crimes was motivated by desire to improve outcomes for victims, whilst maintaining standards. Members noted that BTP applied Victim Compliance Code of Practice (VCOP) in Scotland albeit VCOP was not a standard used by Police Scotland and therefore requested clarification on how BTP practice aligned with Police Scotland in this area.

Audit and Inspection Update

Members noted that an internal audit report on Strategic Workforce Planning was due shortly and would likely result in a significant action plan. Members welcomed a proposal to include an appendix in future reporting setting out all open recommendations, to better illustrate how GB-wide recommendations impacted on the work of BTP Scotland.

Draft Workplan 22/23

Members requested a future thematic on the approach/framework for technology deployment in Scotland. Members also welcomed an Officer recommendation of a future thematic to consider vulnerability on the rail network and the role of BTP. It was also noted that further work between BTPA and SPA on Best Value was likely to identify other topics for inclusion in the workplan.

OFFICIAL

The formal minute of the meeting will be available at the next meeting which is scheduled for 18 May 2022. This will also be published on the BTPA's website.