

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	30 June 2021
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

PURPOSE

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Chief Executive since the previous 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 SPA activity which is not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Engagement with the Scottish Parliament

- 2.1 The Scottish Parliament's Justice Sub-committee on Policing published two reports at the end of Session 5:
- A [Legacy Report](#) reflecting on the work they have undertaken during the session, and highlighting any particular areas of work that are outstanding which a successor committee may wish to pursue, and;
 - [Report on Police Scotland's use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems and Body Worn Video Cameras.](#)
- 2.2 The Chair of the Authority responded to both reports in correspondence sent to the Justice Committee on 27 May 2021. This has been [published on the Authority's website for transparency.](#)
- 2.3 Members will also note that since the last Authority meeting, the Scottish Parliament has established and appointed members to two new Justice Committees. The Criminal Justice Committee will be convened by Audrey Nicoll MSP and the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee will be convened by Joe FitzPatrick MSP. We look forward to continuing our engagement with the Scottish Parliament through these committees in the coming months.

3. SPA Engagement Strategy

- 3.1 A key early commitment of the Authority's 2021/22 business plan was to develop an Engagement Strategy for the SPA to ensure the views and voices of key stakeholders and the public, where appropriate, are able to inform and influence the Authority's support, oversight and review of policing in Scotland. Following consultation with members and Police Scotland, the Engagement Strategy has been published on the Authority's website at the following link: [SPA Engagement Strategy 2021-2023](#). The

Authority's approach recognises that Police Scotland has the **principal** responsibility for public engagement and communication on policing in Scotland. Our approach will therefore be complementary to Police Scotland's and align with the approach and priorities set out in [Police Scotland's Public Contact and Engagement Strategy](#). The Authority's engagement will focus where it can best add value, and where additional evidence, insight, assurance or reassurance may be required.

4. HMICS Thematic Inspection of Hate Crime

- 4.1 Members will be aware of the recent publication of the HMIC thematic inspection report on Hate Crime, and the specific recommendations made for the Authority covering scrutiny of the PS response to hate crime, and use of information and best practice elsewhere to inform scrutiny and improvement of the PS response to hate crime.
- 4.2 The report will be considered at a forthcoming Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee meeting, where an update will be provided on the action plan developed in response to the specific recommendations made for the Authority. Members will also seek assurance that an action plan is under development by Police Scotland in response to the recommendations and oversee progress in responding to the recommendations.
- 4.3 The Policing Performance Committee considered data on hate crime as part of the quarter 4 performance report presented by Police Scotland on 9 June 2021; where Members noted the increase in reported hate crime; sought assurance on how this will be addressed and requested more detail around the use and evaluation of third party reporting in Scotland. A report on Hate Crime, including actions in response to HMICS recommendations, will be presented to a future meeting of the Policing Performance Committee.

5. Scottish Railways Policing Committee

- 5.1 A meeting of the Scottish Railways Policing Committee (SRPC) took place on Tuesday 25 May 2021 via tele and video conference. The SPA was represented by Authority Members Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly.
- 5.2 A full report from the May 2021 meeting is included at Appendix A. The next meeting is due to take place on Friday 3 September 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.

Summary report from the Scottish Railway Policing Committee

15 May 2021

SPA Members – Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly

Main items of business

Welcome to new Members and Officers

The Chair extended a welcome to SPA Member, Mary Pitcaithly who has just been appointed to the Scottish Railway Policing Committee (SRPC). The Chair also welcomed to the meeting Lucy D’Orsi the new Chief Constable of British Transport Police (BTP) and Chief Superintendent Gillian Murray who has taken on the role of temporary Divisional Commander for D Division (covering Scotland).

Chief Constable’s Introduction

BTP’s newly appointed Chief Constable, Lucy D’Orsi highlighted the strength and importance of BTP’s partnership with Police Scotland. It was noted that BTP will continue to work closely with Police Scotland to disrupt criminality and support vulnerable individuals. A particular focus in Scotland will be to work with Police Scotland and other partners to tackle violence, criminal damage and drugs.

Performance and Delivery of BTP in Scotland

The Scottish Railway Policing Committee (SRPC) were updated on the performance and delivery of BTP in Scotland. Key points included:-

- BTP has continued to adapt to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ‘enhanced posture’ of Q4 saw increased focus on visibility and proactivity in ensuring the safety of staff and public and this will continue as the country emerges from Lockdown.
- The end of year figures show the full impact of the pandemic, with crime 29% lower than 2019-20 and a profile of crime that reflects the unique and unprecedented circumstances of 2020-21.
- There were very low levels of high-harm crime during 2020-21 and detection rate remains high in this area.

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- Throughout Q4, BTP officers in Scotland continued to work alongside partners to achieve national and local objectives in reducing crime, disruption and in protecting rail staff and the travelling public.

Future of Performance reporting

A proposal to simplify and refocus performance reporting was presented. It is suggested that going forward SRPC members are presented with a dashboard, providing an 'at a glance' summary of policing plan performance in Scotland, supplemented by a short narrative report exploring key exceptions, setting out actions to be taken, and any other operational matters of note. This report will provide an opportunity for BTP and PS to jointly report on performance, where appropriate, capturing examples of collaborative working and comparing performance trends.

Development of the 2022/25 Railways Policing Strategy

The Force and Authority will start work on the new 2022/25 strategy shortly. The SRPC has a key role to make sure that the strategy considers all requirements of policing in Scotland. The new Chief will outline her new priorities in June/July. Following this both SRPC members, Police Scotland and SPA Officers will be consulted on, and have opportunity to inform the new strategy.

Audit and Inspection Activity

An overview of the approved audit and inspection landscape for BTP was presented. This set out the recent, current and planned activity and includes topics for audit and inspection in which the SRPC may be interested. SRPC members welcomed the presentation and it was requested that audit findings and management responses relevant to Scotland are brought back to the SRPC.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

In line with the annual review of all BTPA Committee ToRs and workplans, the current TORs for SRPC were tabled for review. It was noted that the SRPC operates under a unique framework with respect to its statutory basis and specific mandated responsibilities. No amendments were suggested and the ToR will be reviewed in 12 months.

Workplan 2021/22

Following initial discussion at the February SRPC, the 2021/22 SRPC workplan was presented to members for approval. The work plan has been developed to assist the Committee in delivering against its TORs and to ensure that progress against the underpinning design principles can be evidenced during the year ahead. This refreshed workplan includes standing items and a range of proposed

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special focus items. The plan will be kept under regular review to ensure that it responds to emerging areas of interest for the Committee.

COP26

The Committee were provided with an update from BTP and Police Scotland on progress in preparation for COP26. The update focused on the continued interoperability and partnership between BTP and Police Scotland. Further discussion was had regarding measures taken to ensure staff and officer wellbeing is maintained and consistency in approach between BTP and Police Scotland Officers. A further update on planning a preparation for COP26 will be provided at the next SRPC meeting in September.

The formal minute of the meeting will be available at the next meeting which is scheduled for 3 September 2021. This will also be published on the BTPA's website.