

Meeting	SPA Authority Meeting
Date	24 November 2021
Location	Video-conference
Title of Paper	SPA Chair's Report
Presented By	Martyn Evans
Recommendation to Members	For discussion
Appendix Attached:	NO

Purpose

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Chair since September's Authority meeting.

COP26 – Round-up of Conference

There is an item on the Authority agenda dedicated to early reflections on the policing of COP26 which formally concluded on Saturday 13 November. I have written to the Chief Constable to put on record my congratulations and thanks to the Chief Constable, his leadership team, ACC Higgins and each and every police officer and member of staff who contributed to the conference and business as usual activity in the run up to, during and after the conference. There is no doubt in my mind that the policing operation has been a success and the approach and tone has been overwhelmingly positive.

During the conference I was briefed daily and I had the opportunity to visit the Multi-Agency Command Centre with the Chief Constable. I met with ACC Higgins and silver commanders and the Head of Contact, Command and Control. The scale of the operation in action and the engagement and interactions with partners was notable. This was also evident in the security briefings which Board members on the COP26 Oversight Group (Tom Halpin as chair, Jane Ryder, Michelle Miller) and I attended with DCC Kerr. I am also grateful to Tom and Jane who undertook observational visits to G Division and N Division to look at the impact of the conference on business as usual activity. Tom also attended the Independent Advisory Group Chaired by John Scott QC. The Group played a critical role in the oversight and assurance around planning and delivery of the event.

Pay Award – Police Officers

A [pay deal for police officers](#) was agreed with the staff associations on Friday 22 October and communicated the same day. The agreement recognises the essential and valuable role that police officers play in keeping the people and communities of Scotland safe and secure and importantly was affordable within budget.

A formal offer was made to the staff associations at the end of October. The trade unions will ballot their members before confirming whether the deal will be accepted or not.

Engagement with COSLA

At the invitation of Cllr Kelly Parry, I attended and input to COSLA's Community Wellbeing Board on Friday 12 Nov. It was a very positive discussion with elected members. We discussed initial reflections on the policing of COP26. I also took the opportunity to offer reassurance that

there has been a step change improvement in call answering times for 101 and 999 services over COP26, and extended Chief Superintendent Roddy Newbigging's invitation to elected members to visit him and his team in the Contact, Command and Control Centre in Govan.

There was a wide ranging and positive discussion on joint work between policing and local government, including support for COP26, the pandemic response, and the high value of local government support for policing's use of new technology.

I have also now received confirmation of COSLA's support for the Authority's proposed Local Government Engagement Plan. We will now move to get dates for Regional Meetings with Police Scotland and local authorities in the diary in the New Year. I will also provide a written update to all Scrutiny Conveners before Christmas following my last update to them in September.

2021 Strategic Command Course

I was invited earlier this year to attend and lecture at the College of Policing's 2021 Strategic Command Course. This is policing's most senior leadership programme and is open to officers at Superintendent and Chief Superintendent Rank (and staff equivalent). Passing the course is a statutory requirement for any officers seeking promotion to ACC rank and above in a UK police force. The course is held in Coventry and I attended in person on Tuesday 19 October to talk about independent oversight of policing and the roles of the Authority.

Reform Collaboration Group (RCG)

I attended a meeting of the RCG on 6 October, where updates and detail on the range of collaborative activity underway was discussed. Updates were provided on the Collaborative Leadership Pilot, the work of Police Scotland's International Academy and the Collaboration Framework between Police Scotland and Public Health Scotland. The group discussed the collaborative improvement model – which is focused on a joined up approach to mental health – and the emergency services' dementia work including adoption of the Herbert Protocol.

Following this meeting, I called a meeting in November with Kirsty Darwent, Chair of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Tom Steele, Chair of the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to discuss our collective ambition to seek and progress collaborative opportunities.

Senior Officer Appointment Extensions

In August, the Board took the unanimous decision to recommend to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice the offer of a three-year extension to Chief Constable Iain Livingstone's appointment term, which was due to come to an end in August 2022. We also took the decision to offer DCC Fiona Taylor and DCC Will Kerr three-year extensions to their respective appointment terms which were also due to come to an end in 2022. I confirm all three senior officers have accepted those offers and we communicated that publicly on 26 October 2021.

The Chief Constable, DCC Taylor and DCC Kerr have worked tirelessly since taking post to strengthen and improve policing across the country. Their leadership and Police Scotland's performance has been closely monitored by the Authority, which has involved periods of extraordinary challenge and intense levels of public and media scrutiny. I am confident they will continue to offer their full energy and commitment to further improve policing in the years ahead.

Dr Robert Black CBE

The passing of our fellow Board member, Bob Black, on 15 October following a short illness, has been a great sadness to us all. Bob was a remarkable leader with a sharp mind and a depth of humanity and humour which is a rare and precious combination. He has been an outstanding public servant who made a significant contribution to public life over his long and dedicated career. We were honoured when he agreed to join the Scottish Police Authority earlier this year and he made an instant impact. Jane Ryder, Grant Macrae and I, along with the Chief Constable, Chris Brown our Acting Chief Executive and corporate staff attended Bob's Memorial earlier this month at Dunblane Cathedral. It was a truly fitting celebration of his great life and I hope his four children Emily, Angus, Duncan and Colin and their families take comfort in the tributes, admiration and expression of sorrow at their loss. He will be remembered with great regard.

RECOMMENDATION

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Chair since September's Authority meeting.