

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	25 August 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:	No

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 Authority activity which is not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Independent Advisory Group – call for evidence

- 2.1 The [Independent Advisory Group \(IAG\)](#) set up by the Scottish Government to look at Emerging Technologies in Policing has issued a call for evidence from stakeholders seeking written views to aid its work in scoping the possible issues arising from emerging technological developments in policing.
- 2.2 The Authority has prepared a submission in response, informed by our current oversight arrangements in relation to new and emerging technologies and learning from the roll out of technologies such as cyber kiosks, body worn video and remotely piloted aircraft systems.
- 2.3 The submission will inform the IAG's final report anticipated next summer.

3. Virtual Governance Meetings

- 3.1 Since the introduction of public health restrictions as a result of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, the Scottish Police Authority has conducted its governance (and informal meetings) virtually via Microsoft Teams.
- 3.2 Whilst this was a period of adjustment to begin with, this has on the whole, been a positive development which has presented a number of benefits including:
- Increased accessibility of Authority's governance meetings through 'livestreaming' of Microsoft Teams meetings
 - Minimum abstraction of senior officers and staff for meetings
 - More effective use of Member time commitments
 - Financial benefits through reduced costs of 'hosting' governance meetings in non-policing venues; and reimbursement of related officer, staff and Member expenses

- Significantly reduced carbon footprint.

- 3.3 As restrictions have now been lifted, the Authority has been considering how the benefits above can be retained, and the implications of reverting to physical meetings.
- 3.4 While restrictions have now been lifted, the Scottish Government has issued guidance to public bodies encouraging the continuation of online meetings where possible.
- 3.5 This recognises the benefits and efficiencies that online meetings have presented public bodies and acknowledges the contribution online business can make towards Scotland's commitment to reduce emissions through a just and green recovery, setting a pathway to net zero.
- 3.6 Following discussions with members, and consultation with Police Scotland, the Authority will retain all of its formal governance meetings in the virtual Microsoft Teams environment until 31 March 2022. Public sessions of all Authority and Committee meetings will continue to be livestreamed via the Authority's dedicated Livestream channel for interested parties to observe.

4. Return to office

- 4.1 Now that restrictions have been lifted, the Authority's corporate staff team will begin a phased return to the office in Glasgow from Monday 30 August. This approach is consistent with that being taken by the Scottish Government.
- 4.2 This follows a period of consultation where most members of staff expressed a desire for a more flexible hybrid working arrangement consisting of both remote working from home with some office attendance.
- 4.3 Office attendance will be consistent with Government guidelines and we will retain enhanced cleaning measures with the wearing of masks in the office mandatory in communal areas unless exempt.

4.4 This arrangement will be kept under review and adapted accordingly in liaison with the staff team.

5. Policing of Protests COP26

5.1 Planning for the roundtable discussion taking place on 9 September to consider the policing of protests during COP26 is progressing well. Attendance and input at the event has been confirmed from John Scott QC, Professor Steve Reitcher (Prof of Social Psychology at the University of St. Andrew's), Bruce Adamson, Children and Young Person's Commissioner, Gill Imery, HMCICS and representatives from Glasgow City Council. Kezia Dugdale, Director of the John Smith Centre for Public Services at the University of Glasgow has agreed to facilitate the event. We will invite questions from stakeholders and the public to inform that session in the weeks running up to the event.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.