

COMMITTEE: GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

DATE: 7 SEPTEMBER 2012

TITLE OF REPORT: POLICE REFORM – LOCAL POLICING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Grampian Joint Police Board with an update in respect of the Police Reform programme and developments in terms of Local Policing and associated scrutiny and accountability arrangements.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Members are asked to note this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 4.1 At Local Authority level, Single Outcome Agreements (SOA) are produced by Community Planning Partnerships and contain a specific safer and stronger element, which is realised and managed through a common action plan. These arrangements are the primary local strategic driver for the delivery of safer and stronger communities.
- 4.2 In a number of Local Authority areas, the safer and stronger theme is driven by Community Safety Partnerships, which pre-date the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and in this way, Community Safety Partnerships have become an important mechanism in Community Planning structures

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill received Royal Assent on 13 August 2012. The Bill makes explicit that the duty to participate in Community Planning must be delegated by the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland to the Local Police Commander.

6. REPORT

6.1 Local Policing / Accountability

- 6.1.2 To ensure appropriate scrutiny is facilitated after the Police Service of Scotland comes into effect on 1 April 2013, the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill proposes that Local Police Commanders are responsible for producing a local Police Plan which will be submitted to the Local Authority for approval. In preparing the Police Plan, the Local Police Commander is required to consult with others and have due regard to the national Strategic Police Plan. The Bill also specifies that the Police Plan be reviewed and replaced every three years.
- 6.1.3 The national Strategic Police Plan, which will reflect the Scottish Policing Assessment, will be used to set priorities at a national level. It is envisaged that local joint strategic assessments, compiled by Police and partners, will take cognisance of the national priorities and add local priorities for inclusion in the Police Plan. These joint strategic assessments will in turn feed the National Scottish Policing Assessment in an iterative and interactive process.
- 6.1.4 The preparation of the local Police Plan will involve Local Authority and Community Planning partners and so in this way, the legislative requirements of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill will be discharged.
- 6.1.5 This priority setting process will assist in the production of the local SOA, as well as the local Police Plan. Ensuring coherence between the SOA and Police Plan will provide a solid platform on which to construct the national Strategic Police Plan and assist to establish a correlation between local and national priorities.
- 6.1.6 Local Police Commanders will be required to produce three key products.

6.2 The Police Plan Report

- 6.2.1 This document will be produced in a format recognizable to the particular Local Authority. It will contain information about how the priorities were selected, partnership and governance structures and information on the local Police structure and resources.

6.3 The Police Plan

- 6.3.1 The Police Plan will be a key document providing an evidence-based set of outcomes for the delivery of local policing.
- 6.3.2 Measuring performance against these outcomes will provide the framework against which Local Police Commanders can be held to account by their communities and any committees which replace Police Boards. There will also be a requirement to ensure local performance measures are linked to the Scottish Policing Performance Framework (SPPF).

6.3.3 The Police Plan will be submitted to the Local Authority and will detail priorities and outcomes under suggested headings of -

- Diversity and Equality (Statutory duty)
- Creating Safer Communities (National Priorities)
- Dealing with Local Concerns (Local Priorities)
- Delivering an Excellent Service (Quality of Service)
- Community Engagement Standards.

6.3.4 It is envisaged this document will be restricted to two 'A4' pages and will be suitable for publication and public display.

6.4 The Action Plan

6.4.1 This document will contain actions or outputs necessary to be undertaken in order to achieve the outcomes under each priority articulated in the Police Plan. It is envisaged a performance management process will be developed alongside this action plan to enable Police and partners to accurately assess progress at regular reporting intervals. It is not intended that this Action Plan will be published, but it will be subject to Local Authority and Police scrutiny arrangements.

6.5 Performance Management

6.5.1 A performance management regime will be developed to ensure the Chief Constable and Local Police Commanders comply with legislative requirements and deliver a service to standards which provide benchmarking for performance improvement. The new SPPF will form the basis for much of this work.

6.6 **Local Scrutiny and Engagement Project**

6.6.1 The Local Scrutiny and Engagement Project ('Pathfinder') was mandated in December 2011 and notification advised to all Local Authorities, Police and Fire and Rescue Services. Positive responses were received from 30 Local Authorities and all eight Police Forces and Fire and Rescue Services.

6.6.2 The Pathfinders are actively engaged in planning the new arrangements they intend to trial and a number of Local Authorities have submitted reports seeking agreement to establish local scrutiny committees.

6.6.3 Draft templates for Local Police Plans, produced by the ACPOS Local Policing Work Group, have been circulated to all participants.

6.6.4 A key issue for consideration will be how to appropriately integrate these new arrangements within Community Planning, whilst also increasing the involvement of local elected Members in scrutinising local Police Plans. Scottish Government are currently working with Pathfinders to progress this aspect.

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- 6.6.5 Nationally, various models for this structure are being considered varying from using existing structures to creating new ones and scrutinising Police and Fire and Rescue jointly or separately.
 - 6.6.6 The proposed level of elected Member involvement in the scrutiny arrangements also varies with individual Pathfinders.
 - 6.6.7 From a local perspective, discussions are continuing with elected Members and Officers in all three Local Authorities with regard to the composition and governance of future arrangements. These are at various stages of development and specific details are likely to emerge in the near future.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

- 7.1 Superintendent Craig Blackhall, Development & Governance Business Area.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Chief Constable
27 August 2012