

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	19 December 2012
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Strategic Police Priorities
REPORT NUMBER	OCE/12/032

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report brings before the Council the draft strategic police priorities prepared by the Scottish Ministers for the Scottish Police Authority. The Council is invited to comment on the draft, with any response to be submitted to the Scottish Government by Thursday 10 January 2013.

The report provides a suggested response from the City Council

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council considers the suggested response and, subject to any alteration agreed at the meeting, approves its submission to the Scottish Government.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for the Council to this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The discharging of the Council's responsibilities in relation to the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 is of direct relevance to the delivery of the Council's responsibilities in relation to Community Planning, the Single Outcome Agreement and the Business Plan.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 (the Act) establishes the Scottish Police Authority and the Police Service of Scotland. The Authority maintains the Service and holds the Chief Constable to account for the policing of Scotland.

Under the terms of the Act (paragraph 33), the Scottish Ministers may determine strategic priorities for the Authority which may relate to the policing of Scotland or the carrying out of the Authority's functions.

Before determining strategic police priorities, the Scottish Ministers must consult (among others) such persons as appear to them to be representative of local authorities.

The strategic police priorities will inform the strategic police plan to be prepared by the Scottish Police Authority and will feed into the development of the Chief Constable's annual plan and local plans.

At its meeting on 29 November the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee agreed in principle the format and content of the draft local police plan for Aberdeen City. The final local police plan will be brought back to that Committee for approval in early 2013.

Attached as Appendix 1 is a copy of the draft strategic police priorities along with a diagram outlining the relationship between priorities, planning and reporting.

In seeking feedback on the draft priorities, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice states that "taken together, the strategic police priorities and plans will form the basis against which progress on achieving positive outcomes for Scotland's communities is monitored. National and local priorities are not mutually exclusive – so a focus on preventing violent crime as a national priority may translate into a focus on preventing knife crime or alcohol crime locally. National priorities often emerge from issues identified locally."

The comments of the Council are invited on the strategic police priorities and in particular views are sought on the following questions:

- Do the strategic police priorities adequately reflect the Scottish Government's purpose and outcomes and the new policing principles?
- Do the strategic police priorities cover the important issues as a stakeholder you would expect to see?
- The purpose of the strategic police priorities is to provide strategic direction over the medium to long term. Are these priorities pitched at the right level? In terms of the three year strategic plan produced by the Scottish Police Authority, what should the plan contain? Are there more specific deliverables flowing from the strategic priorities which you would expect to be delivered by the Scottish Police Authority and the Police Service of Scotland?

It is suggested that the Council responds as follows:-

Aberdeen City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft strategic police priorities set by the Scottish Ministers for the Scottish Police Authority.

In particular, the City Council supports the emphasis placed on the requirement for a partnership approach to the policing of Scotland and the empowerment of local police commanders to work closely with partners at a local level.

In Aberdeen, we have established a strong working relationship with the local police commander for the Aberdeen City Division of the Police Service of Scotland and expect to agree with him the local police plan for Aberdeen for 2013/2014 in early 2013. Clearly that plan will be influenced by the strategic police priorities and the policing principles set out in the Act, but in addressing locally the Scottish Government's purpose and outcomes the focus for the City Council, the local police commander and other community planning partners will be on together delivering the Single Outcome Agreement for the benefit of people living and working in Aberdeen.

Given that the recently circulated guidance relating to the new Single Outcome Agreements has as one of its policy priorities *safer and stronger communities, and reducing offending*, and given the stress placed in that guidance on a clear understanding of place, prevention and community engagement the City Council looks forward to working closely with the local police commander and his colleagues in devising, delivering and monitoring local solutions to local challenges and in jointly meeting the needs of the people we serve. It is gratifying that the draft strategic police priorities envisage the local commander being able to play a full and active role in such local partnership initiatives.

It is understood that as national organisations, the Scottish Police Authority and the Police Service of Scotland will require to monitor and report on a number of national deliverables, but again the focus for Aberdeen City Council will be on the local outcomes that are embedded both within the local police plan and the Single Outcome Agreement having emerged through assessments of need conducted by community planning partners across the City.

The City Council looks forward to receiving for comment the Scottish Police Authority's draft strategic police plan. It is hoped that the plan will reinforce both the centrality of a partnership approach to the work of the Police Service of Scotland and the empowerment of local police commanders to engage proactively with the local authority and others to address the issues that matter in local communities.

It is recommended that the Council considers the suggested response above and, subject to any alteration agreed at the meeting, approves its submission to the Scottish Government by 10 January 2013.

6. IMPACT

As noted above, the subject matter of this report is relevant to the Council's work in relation to Community Planning, the Single Outcome Agreement and the delivery of the Business Plan.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Ciaran Monaghan
Head of Service, Office of Chief Executive
cmonaghan@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522293

DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICE PRIORITIES

The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and the Police Service of Scotland will deliver the policing principles and realise the statutory principles of policing as set out in the Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. The SPA is the national body responsible for the governance of policing in Scotland. It will allocate resources to the Chief Constable and hold him to account for the policing of Scotland and the delivery of statutory functions.

The priorities as drafted are intended to clearly incorporate the contribution which policing can make to achieving the Scottish Government's national outcomes and the priorities within the Strategy for Justice. Consistent with our wider ambitions for public service reform, these are strongly underpinned by an ethos of prevention, rooted within a partnership approach.

They are intended to set clear national priorities but also to empower local commanders to work with partners in the public, private and third sectors, and local communities within the community planning framework to deliver greater integration of services at a local level driven by better partnership, collaboration and effective local delivery.

We expect that further specific and measurable deliverables relating to Scottish Government's national outcomes will be included in the Strategic Plan which the SPA will draft on the basis of the strategic priorities.

The draft strategic priorities are:

1. Make communities safer and reduce crime by demonstrating pioneering approaches to partnership and collaboration at a national and local level.

Actively support a decisive shift towards prevention by promoting evidence based preventative practice and effective partnerships which make the most of collective resource, knowledge and expertise, especially around reducing violence, substance misuse, promoting better outcomes for young people who offend and protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Supports:

- National outcome 5: Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed**
- National outcome 8: We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk**
- National outcome 9: We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger**

2. Strengthen Scotland's reputation as a successful and safe country by demonstrating excellence in effectively planning for and responding to major national events and threats.

Work across national, international and organisational boundaries to ensure a safe and secure Commonwealth Games; contribute effectively to multi agency arrangements to deal with emergencies; and minimise threats to our communities more generally.

Supports:

National outcome 9: We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger
National outcome 11: We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others

3. Provide an efficient, effective service and deliver the benefits of reform.

Deliver the three benefits of reform and work with others to ensure that the criminal justice system is fair and accessible, cost effective and efficient.*

Supports:

National outcome 16: Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to people's needs

(*note – the three benefits of reform are i) protect and improve local services despite financial cuts, by stopping duplication of support services eight times over and not cutting frontline services; ii) create more equal access to specialist support and national capacity where and when they are needed; iii) strengthen the connection between services and communities, by creating a new formal relationship with each of the 32 local authorities, involving many more local councillors and better integrating with community planning partnerships.)

4. Make communities stronger by increasing public confidence and reducing fear of crime, making the new Police Service of Scotland an exemplar of visible and responsive policing.

Ensure that victims, witnesses and communities experience positive engagement with the police by providing inspirational leadership and embedding a culture, identity and values which provide a highly skilled and motivated workforce to deliver improved local services with the consent and involvement of communities.

Supports:

National outcome 7: We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
National outcome 9: We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger
National outcome 11: We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others

National outcome 13: We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity

National outcome 16: Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs