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**To: POLICE AND FIRE & RESCUE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

**On: 20 AUGUST 2019**

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**Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PLANNING SERVICES**

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**Heading: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF STRATEGIC POLICE PRIORITIES: CONSULTATION**

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## **1. Summary**

1.1 On 15 July 2019, the Scottish Government published a consultation on the draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland. This nationwide consultation followed a pre-consultation discussion with a range of organisations which have a direct interest in Policing in Scotland including:

- The SPA
- Police Scotland
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)
- The Police Investigation and Review Commissioner (PIRC)
- COSLA officials
- Representatives from the Scottish Police Federation and the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents.

1.2 The draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland have been informed by this pre-consultation exercise and are focused on six themes:

- Crime and Security
- Confidence
- Partnerships
- Sustainability
- People
- Evidence

- 1.3 The consultation document is available at <https://consult.gov.scot/safer-communities/review-of-strategic-police-priorities> and is available to Elected Members as a background paper to this report.
- 1.4 The final date for submissions to the consultation is 4 October 2019 and the draft Renfrewshire Council response is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee:
- (i) notes the consultation on the review of the Police Strategic Priorities being undertaken by the Scottish Government; and
  - (ii) approves the draft response to the consultation detailed in Appendix 1.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 In 2013, eight former Police Forces, the Scottish Police Services Authority and the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency were brought together to create Police Scotland. The Scottish Government Strategic Police Priorities provide the top level framework for what is expected of the police service and they were initially set in 2013 under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and reviewed and updated in 2016. The Strategic Police Priorities in 2016 were focused on 6 themes:
- Localism
  - Prevention
  - Response
  - Collaborative Working
  - Accountability
  - Adaptability
- 3.2 At this time, it was agreed that the Strategic Police Priorities would be reviewed in 3 years to ensure they remain pertinent and up to date. The new priorities will be published following consultation in November 2019. It is proposed that the new priorities remain in place for 6 years and are next reviewed in 2025.
- 3.3 The consultation paper clearly lays out the hierarchy of Police Priorities and planning from both a national and local level. The hierarchy begins with the National Performance Framework (NPF) and filters down to a local level via Policing Principles, Strategic Police Priorities, Strategic Police Plan, Annual Police Plan and Local Police Plans.

- 3.4 Renfrewshire Council works very closely with Police Scotland and feeds into Police Scotland Plans and Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) with regards to the Renfrewshire area (K Division). In particular, Renfrewshire Council fed into the Police Scotland Ten Year Strategy: *Serving a Changing Scotland* which was launched in June 2017.
- 3.5 The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) maintain an oversight of Police Scotland and hold the Chief Constable to account. Locally, Police report quarterly to the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee.
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#### 4. Draft Strategic Police Priorities

- 4.1 The Strategic Police Priorities are purposefully strategic and concise to enable the SPA and Police Scotland to further define outcomes, objectives and actions which flow from this high-level direction.
- 4.2 The proposed Strategic Police Priorities for the period from 2019 - 2025 are as follows:
- **Crime and Security** – prioritises prevention, investigation, equality and human rights to support positive criminal justice outcomes, respond to current and emerging threats and maintain public order.
  - **Confidence** – continues to inspire public trust by being ethical, open and transparent, evidencing performance against outcomes, and building on a positive reputation at a local, national and international level.
  - **Partnerships** – works proactively with partners to maintain safe communities and support improved outcomes for individuals, increasing resilience and addressing vulnerability.
  - **Sustainability** – adapts to present and plans for future social and economic circumstances, considering the environmental impact of policing and its operations.
  - **People** – values, supports, engages and empowers a diverse workforce to lead and deliver high quality services.
  - **Evidence** – uses evidence to develop services and addresses current and emerging demands, ensuring that the right capacity and skills are in place to deliver high performing and innovative services.

#### 5. Proposed Council Response

- 5.1 Overall the Council's response to the consultation attached as Appendix 1 is that the revised priorities should be welcomed. They are clear and easy to understand yet cover all of the key areas that Renfrewshire Council would expect to see. In particular, the focus on partnerships, people and sustainability, are all areas where the strategic direction being set aligns well

with the priorities of Renfrewshire Council as set out in the Council Plan and Community Plan.

- 5.2 The proposed timescale for review is workable and accepted – with the caveat that this might need to be brought forward should there be a significant change in the operating environment or context during this period.
- 5.3 The proposed priorities will help Police Scotland at a divisional level to work with the Council to progress further with activities like the Community Safety Partnership, MARAC, Daily Tasking, Missing Persons, Domestic Abuse, Community Empowerment and will support the development and progression of future multi-agency work. The suggested priorities also sit well with the focus on responding to the needs of our most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities as set out in Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Council Plan.
- 5.4 The focus on confidence is of particular relevance to the Council in relation to the role of the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee as the local Police Scrutiny Board and is particularly welcomed.
- 5.5 The focus on evidence is one that the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership completely agrees with and whilst it may be implied, it is suggested that early intervention is of crucial importance and should be explicitly mentioned. Shifting resources to early intervention and prevention is important locally in supporting key initiatives that have been developed including Street Stuff, Daily Tasking and the Your Street, Your Home, Our Community programme (National Building Safer Communities model).

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## Implications of the Report

- 1. **Financial** – None.
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
- 3. **Community Planning** –  
  
Our Renfrewshire is safe – By working with Police Scotland and delivering Strategic Priorities, Renfrewshire will be a safer place to live, work and visit.
- 4. **Legal** – None.
- 5. **Property/Assets** – None.
- 6. **Information Technology** – None.

7. **Equality & Human Rights –**

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety – None.**

9. **Procurement – None.**

10. **Risk – None.**

11. **Privacy Impact – None.**

12. **Cosla Policy Position – None.**

13. **Climate Risk – None.**

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**List of Background Papers**

a) **Background Paper 1 : Review of Strategic Police Priorities Consultation**

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Communities, Housing and Planning Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is the Communities and Regulatory Manager.

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OR  
8 August 2019

**Author** Oliver Reid, Head of Public Protection  
**e-mail:** [oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1

1. To what extent do the revised Strategic Police Priorities meet your expectations for what the Scottish Police Authority and the Police Service should focus on in the future:

- a. Fully**
- b. Partially
- c. Not at all

Please provide reasons for your response.

**Overall the revised priorities are welcomed. They are simple and easy to understand yet cover all of the key areas that Renfrewshire Council would expect to see.**

**All the priorities align well with the priorities of Renfrewshire Council as set out in the Council Plan and Community Plan. These shared priorities will help the Council to progress further with activities like the Community Safety Partnership, MARAC, Daily Tasking, Missing People, Domestic Abuse and Community Empowerment.**

**The evidence priority is similar to the stance taken by Renfrewshire Council, however it should potential be strengthened by adding in “early intervention”. This may be implied, however, it would be better served as being explicit. The previous Strategic Priority of “Prevention” covered this up until the new draft priorities and is a key part of the Daily Tasking process which Police Scotland form a key part in K Division.**

2. Do the revised Strategic Police Priorities reflect your needs:

- a. Fully**
- b. Partially
- c. Not at all

Please provide reasons for your response.

**As stated above, these priorities align with Renfrewshire Councils plans and priorities.**

**Renfrewshire Council and Police Scotland have an excellent working relationship at a local level due to the aligned priorities and outcomes. This relationship will continue in the coming years to deliver Local Outcome Improvement Plans and priorities.**

**The key priority for Renfrewshire Council is “partnerships” as it strengthens the working relationship and accepts that no single agency can meet the needs of Renfrewshire on their own.**

3. Do the revised Strategic Police Priorities reflect the needs of your community:
- a. **Fully**
  - b. Partially
  - c. Not at all

Please provide reasons for your response.

**The needs of the community are met across all 6 strategic priorities. Localism was a key priority previously and this led to a review and re-introduction of a local community police model. This has been very well received by the communities and is working well.**

**Evidence, Confidence and Crime and Security are the 3 key priorities that the community would look to. This shows that Police Scotland are targeting key areas (evidence) for the key issues in the community (crime) to instil a confidence across the community.**

4. Do you agree that the revised Strategic Police Priorities should be in place for a period of 6 years? Please provide reasons for your response.

**Renfrewshire Council can fully understand the reason for having Strategic Priorities over a longer period of time and agrees that Strategic Priorities should be set over a medium length period.**

**This also allows certain cycles of plans to be undertaken under the same priorities and will allow Police Scotland to show the impact made.**

**A period of 5 or 6 years would be appropriate for this as long as all interested parties are aware of this. It should be noted, however, that it could be brought forward if there was seen to be a large change in landscape e.g. EU withdrawal, Independence Referendum to allow strategic priorities to be reshaped.**

5. How do you think the progress towards delivering the Strategic Police Priorities should be measured?

**Police Scotland are data rich and should continue to review and analyse trends to assess if priorities are leading to successful outcomes.**

**The role of the SPA, SPA and Conveners Board and local scrutiny committees should be maintained to ensure Police Scotland are held accountable both nationally and locally.**

6. Do you have any comments to make on our partial equalities impact assessment? This is available as an associated downloadable document.

**Not at this time.**