

To: Police and Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee

On: 14 January 2020

Report by: Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services

Heading: Consultation on HM Inspectorate of Constabulary In Scotland (HMICS) Scrutiny Plan 2020-21

1. Summary

- 1.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Scotland (HMICS) is in the process of developing their annual Scrutiny Plan to deliver a planned inspection programme for 2020–21.
 - 1.2 In a change to the consultation process, this year HMICS will utilise an online survey so that anyone with an interest in policing in Scotland can make a contribution. As part of this process, HMICS sought the views of key stakeholders on any topical, high risk or emerging areas in Policing that could be included within the 2020-21 plan.
 - 1.3 The on-line survey can be accessed at:
https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/hmics_scrutiny_plan_2020-21
 - 1.4 The aim of the online survey is to provide HMICS with a thorough insight into the key issues that members of the public, key stakeholders and staff members of Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority feel strongly about.
 - 1.5 HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Gillian Imery wrote to partners including the Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive on 15 November 2019 requesting input into the HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2020-21.
 - 1.6 The final date for submissions to the letter is 17 January 2020. A draft response from the Council is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for the approval of members.
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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 HMICS annual scrutiny plan; and
 - (ii) approves the Council's consultation response as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
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3. Background

- 3.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, (HMICS) has a statutory role to report on the state, effectiveness and efficiency of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. HMICS first issued a consultation on their forward workplan 2014 – 2017 in November 2013. Since then, each HMICS Annual Scrutiny Plan has included an appropriate focus on the issues that are relevant and have been highlighted by the Council.
- 3.2 In accordance with their statutory obligation to keep this plan under review, HMICS are currently refreshing it to take account of necessary changes to scrutiny activities. The last updated HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2019-20, was issued in October 2019.
- 3.3 In previous years, HMICS highlighted some of the areas they wished to focus on, however this year, as was the case last year, they did not provide a draft report or anything that they would focus on during the 2020–2021 year.
- 3.4 From a Renfrewshire perspective, local relationships with Police Scotland and with the Scottish Police Authority are excellent and the areas highlighted in the Renfrewshire response will strengthen this relationship.
- 3.5 The response attached for approval, welcomes the development of the HMICS Scrutiny Plan for 2020-21 and highlights some areas that Renfrewshire Council feel would benefit from scrutiny by HMICS.
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Implications of the Report

- 1. **Financial** - None
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
- 3. **Community/Council Planning** –
 - *Our Renfrewshire is safe* - By focusing on key areas of policing, Renfrewshire should be a safer place to live, work and visit
- 4. **Legal** - None

5. **Property/Assets** - None
 6. **Information Technology** - None
 7. **Equality & Human Rights**
 - (a) 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** – Not Applicable
 13. **Climate Risk** – Not Applicable
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List of Background Papers

None

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**Renfrewshire Council's response to the
Consultation on HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2020-2021**

I am responding to your letter of 15 November 2019 seeking comments on the proposed HMICS scrutiny plan for 2020-21. Renfrewshire Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this process.

From a Renfrewshire perspective, local relationships with Police Scotland and with the Scottish Police Authority continue to be excellent and productive. In particular, I would highlight the close working relationship developed with K Division through the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership Hub.

Following the successful trial of the Contact Assessment Model (CAM) in 2 divisions (Lanarkshire & Dumfries and Galloway), it is proposed to roll out the Assessment Model to K Division in early 2020. Whilst we are fully supportive and this sounds like an excellent proposal to reduce vulnerabilities, it may be prudent for HMICS to scrutinise the outcomes of the projects to date or in implementation.

Renfrewshire Council has raised this previously, however, we would welcome a focus on the work undertaken nationally by Police Scotland to assist the Gypsy/Travellers community. This would ensure that partners are doing everything appropriate to assist this community and there is a consistent approach to responding to the issues faced by this community being taken across Scotland.

Human Trafficking is a concern and key priority for the Renfrewshire Community Protection (Prevent) Group. In common with a number of other local authorities across Scotland there has been an increase in the numbers of foreign nationals turning up within Renfrewshire and claiming to have been trafficked – some of whom are suggesting links with organised criminality. Like Gypsy Travellers above, it would be useful to review the Police response to this on a national basis to understand the picture and multi-agency response at a local level.

Another area of broad strategic importance with a multi-agency dimension relates to the ongoing review of Prevent guidance being taken forward in the UK and an examination of the changing role of Police Scotland in driving this process as the guidance is updated may be of benefit.

Finally, Renfrewshire Council is the data controller for 49 public space CCTV cameras across Renfrewshire. They are high definition, state of the art and include technology including "Brief Cam" that can filter images very quickly given a suitable parameter e.g. red car etc. From discussions through the Community Safety Network, there is currently a review of CCTV across Scotland currently being undertaken by COSLA and it would be beneficial for HMICS to scrutinise the use of CCTV by Police Scotland to assess effectiveness and best practice.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you in developing your Scrutiny Plan for 2020 - 21. However, should you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.