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

**On: 15 JANUARY 2019**

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

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**Heading: CONSULTATION ON HM INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY IN SCOTLAND (HMICS) SCRUTINY PLAN 2019-20**

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## **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 2019–20.
  - 1.2 HMICS has recently undertaken strategic engagement with the Force Executive and Divisional Commanders between November 2018 and January 2019. This engagement is important to HMICS to maintain a good understanding of current issues affecting policing and to achieve an enhanced situational assessment in order that future scrutiny activity is focused on the right issues in the right areas.
  - 1.3 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 2019-20 plan.
  - 1.4 HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Gill Imery wrote to partners on 26 November 2018 requesting input into the HMICS Scrutiny Plan (2019-20).
  - 1.5 The final date for submissions to the letter was 21 December 2018. A response from the Council was submitted within the timescales set by HMICS and is attached as Appendix 1.
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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) homologates the Council's submitted 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 2018-19, was issued in April 2018.
- 3.3 In previous years, HMICS highlighted some of the areas they wished to focus on, however, this year they did not provide a draft report or anything that they would focus on during the 2019–2020 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 submitted, and attached for homologation, welcomes the development of the HMICS Scrutiny Plan for 2019-20.
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## **Implications of the Report**

- 1. **Financial** – None.
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
- 3. **Community Planning** –  
  
Our Renfrewshire is safe – 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** –

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.

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#### **List of Background Papers**

None

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OR  
13 December 2018

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

**Renfrewshire Council's response to the consultation on HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2019-20**

I am responding to your letter of 26 November 2018 seeking comments on the proposed HMICS scrutiny plan for 2019 / 20. 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. The Community Policing model introduced in recent years continues to deliver good results for communities across Renfrewshire and the support of Police Scotland at a Divisional level for key operational priorities including the Community Safety Hub and Daily Tasking process as well as strategic issues such as tackling serious and organised crime and counter terrorism issues is of significant value to the Council. Over the past year Police Scotland have also worked closely with the Council to support improvements to the performance and scrutiny arrangements for the service and have continued to support key groups such as the Community Protection Chief Officer Group. At a K Division level Police Scotland have worked closely with the Council and with Scottish Fire and Rescue to develop an innovative collaborative learning approach shared across key agencies and are seeking to integrate local actions and priorities into the Local Outcome Improvement Plan to develop shared accountability across strategic objectives for the benefit of communities across Renfrewshire.

On that basis the Council 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 a consistent approach to responding to the issues faced by this community across Scotland.

Human trafficking has also been noted as an on-going issue across Scotland and the recent development of a national toolkit produced and circulated to partners could be scrutinised in relation to its uptake and introduction to begin to assess its effectiveness.

There are several issues in the coming year that may require further scrutiny from HMICS, however, due to the fluid timetable, this may not be a possibility this year. These include Police Scotland Brexit preparedness/resilience and the introduction to the new Contact Assessment Model (CAM).

Finally, with regards to Governance of Policing, a joint officer working group involving representatives from the SPA, Police Scotland, COSLA and SOLACE, supported by

the COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners' Forum was formed and met for the first time in May 2018. Further meetings were held over the Summer months and a draft work plan produced to look at improvement activity. Further scrutiny on the effectiveness of the work plan and the approach may be beneficial.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you in developing your Scrutiny Plan for 2019 / 20. However, should you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.