

**To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 31 August 2016**

**Report by:**

Shona MacDougall, Director of Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council

**Scottish Government Review of Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland  
Consultation Paper**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 On 22 June the Scottish Government published a consultation on draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland. This followed a pre consultation phase which had been running up to end of April 2016 centred around the question “What are your priorities for your police service?”
- 1.2 The Scottish Government was keen to capture as wide a range of comments as possible from all communities during the pre consultation phase and encouraged comments and engagement through Community Councils, residents and neighbourhood groups and through social media channels. The information was forwarded to all Local Area Committees to raise awareness of the consultation and at its meeting on 3 February 2016 the Renfrewshire Safer and Stronger Thematic Board received a presentation by the Scottish Government and had the opportunity to make comments.
- 1.3 The draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland have been informed by this pre consultation exercise and are focused on six themes:
  - Localism
  - Prevention
  - Response
  - Collaborative Working
  - Accountability
  - Adaptability
- 1.4 The intention is that if these are agreed, these priorities will set the tone and give broad strategic direction to Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). It is not intended that they will direct specific areas of operational policing activity.
- 1.5 The Draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland consultation document is available on the Scottish Government website along with two additional documents that are referred to in the consultation document:
  - Partial Equality Impact Assessment/Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Assessment
  - Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment
- 1.6 The final date for submissions to the consultation was 16 August 2016. A response from Renfrewshire Council was submitted within the timescales set by the Scottish Government

and is attached as Appendix 1

## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board:

- a) Notes the Consultation on draft Strategic Police Priorities carried out by the Scottish Government;
- b) Notes Renfrewshire Council's submitted consultation response as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

## **3. Background**

3.1 In September 2015, the Scottish Government set out its intention to work with members of the public, communities and elected representatives to review their national priorities for policing. These national priorities are set under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and are more commonly referred to as the Strategic Police Priorities.

3.2 At its meeting on 3 February the Thematic Board received a presentation by the Scottish Government regarding work on the pre-consultation phase of their Review of Strategic Police Priorities. In May the Board were further informed that the Scottish Government had scheduled the formal consultation to take place during the summer. As both the Council and Community Planning Boards were in recess it was agreed that a Renfrewshire response would be drafted in consultation with members of the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board and submitted to the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board for approval on 23 August 2016. A copy of the full response is detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

3.3 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 when the single police force was established. At that time there were 4 priorities identified:

- Make communities safer and reduce harm by tackling and investigating crime and demonstrating pioneering approaches to prevention and collaboration at a national and local level
- Strengthen Scotland's reputation as a successful and safe country by demonstrating excellence in effectively planning for and responding to major events and threats
- Provide an efficient, effective service focused on protecting frontline services, delivering the benefits of police reform, and promoting continuous improvement
- Make communities stronger and improve wellbeing by increasing public confidence and reducing fear of crime, making the new Police Service of Scotland an exemplar of visible, ethical and responsive policing.

## **4 Draft Strategic Police Priorities**

4.1 The proposed strategic police priorities are focused on six themes:

- a) Localism
- b) Prevention
- c) Response
- d) Collaborative Working
- e) Accountability

f) Adaptability

4.2 Taken together, they set the tone for the planning of police services in Scotland and reflect expectations around ways of working and the type of organisation that Police Scotland should seek to be.

- a) **Localism** – Ensure that the needs of communities are understood and reflected in the planning and delivery of policing.
- b) **Prevention** – Ensure the police service works to prevent crime and reduce fear of crime through partnership, communication, education and innovation, placing particular focus on the need to address inequalities within and between communities.
- c) **Response** – Focus policing on keeping people safe by tackling crime and responding to and investigating incidents effectively and efficiently.
- d) **Collaborative Working** – Ensure that the police service works collaboratively with partners at both a local and national level to deliver better outcomes for people in Scotland.
- e) **Accountability** – Maintain public confidence in policing and inspire trust by being transparent, accountable and acting with integrity, fairness and respect.
- f) **Adaptability** – Ensure the police service is able to take advantage of new opportunities and meet emerging threats and challenges.

4.3 These priorities are all very high level and cut across everything that Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership strive to work with Police Scotland on. Deliberately, there is not much detail behind the priorities; this will come from annual plans and will reflect operational objectives and priorities that should change from year to year – whereas the strategic priorities should be consistent for a number of years. They are expected to be in place for the medium term e.g. 3-5 years.

4.4 Overall the revised priorities should be welcomed. They are simpler and easier to understand, yet cover all of the key areas that we would expect to see. In particular, the focus on localism, prevention, collaborative working and adaptability are four areas where the strategic direction being set aligns well with the priorities of the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership as set out in the Community Plan.

4.5 These shared priorities will help the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership to progress further with activities like the Community Safety Hub, MARAC and Daily Tasking and will allow us to develop and progress future multi-agency work. The suggested priorities also sit well with the focus on responding to the needs of our most disadvantaged communities as set out in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Council Plan and the Renfrewshire Tackling Poverty Strategy.

4.6 The focus on shifting resources to early intervention and prevention is important in supporting key initiatives that have been developed locally including Street Stuff, Daily Tasking and the Building Safer Greener Communities programme.

4.7 The focus on collaborative working will be important in supporting initiatives such as MARAC as a key response to the challenges of domestic abuse and gender based violence, which is

rapidly developing in Renfrewshire to be an example of best practice replicated in other Local Authorities.

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**Appendix 1**

# Review of Scottish Strategic Police Priorities Consultation



## RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

**Please Note** this form **must** be returned with your response.

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual  
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Renfrewshire Council

Phone number

Address

Renfrewshire House  
Cotton Street  
Paisley

Postcode

PA1 1WB

Email

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name  
 Publish response only (anonymous)  
 Do not publish response

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes  
 No

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

We are seeking views on the revised Strategic Police Priorities and in particular we are inviting views on the following questions;

1. Do the revised Strategic Police Priorities sum up your ambitions for your police service?

Yes X No

Comments

Overall the revised priorities are welcomed. They are simpler and easier to understand, yet cover all of the key areas that we would expect to see. In particular, the focus on localism, prevention, collaborative working and adaptability are four 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.

These shared priorities will help the Council to progress further with activities like the Community Safety Hub, MARAC and Daily Tasking and will allow us to develop and progress future multi-agency work.

The focus on accountability is of particular relevance to the Council in relation to the role of Housing and Community Safety Policy Board as the local Police Scrutiny Board and is particularly welcomed.

2. Do the revised Strategic Police Priorities reflect the needs of your local community or the communities you serve?

Yes X No

Comments

The suggested priorities sit well with the focus on responding to the needs of our most disadvantaged communities as set out in our Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Council Plan and the Renfrewshire Tackling Poverty Strategy.

At a time when budgets are under pressure, the focus on shifting resources to early intervention and prevention is important in supporting key initiatives that have been developed locally including Street Stuff, Daily Tasking and the Building Safer Greener Communities programme.

The focus on collaborative working will be important in supporting initiatives such as MARAC as a key response to the challenges of domestic abuse and gender based violence, which is rapidly developing in Renfrewshire to be an example of best practice replicated in other Local Authorities. It will also be an important element in the creation of new arrangements for Community Justice. The strategic priorities would be strengthened through an explicit reference to these arrangements and the role that Police Scotland will play in supporting them.

3. Do you have anything to add to our impact assessments?

Yes  No X

Comments