

To: HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY POLICY BOARD

On: 14 MARCH 2017

Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Heading: CONSULTATION ON HM INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY IN SCOTLAND
(HMICS) SCRUTINY PLAN 2017-18**

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 2017/18.
 - 1.2 As part of this process, HMICS sought the views of key stakeholders on the proposed inspections and any topical, high risk or emerging areas in Policing that could be included within the 2017/18 annual inspection programme.
 - 1.3 In planning for 2017/18, HMICS had already committed to developing a self-assessment inspection process for local policing, which will be piloted in Tayside as well as thematic inspections on Forensic Services, Cyber Policing, Counter Terrorism and Undercover Policing. They will also undertake their first statutory inspection of the Scottish Police Authority, with a particular focus on its new governance arrangements and oversight of transformational change, finance, people, audit and policing. HMICS is also committed to a joint inspection of British Transport Police with HMIC in England and Wales and to their ongoing joint scrutiny of Children's Services with the Care Inspectorate.
 - 1.4 These plans are consistent with previous years, and the focus is to be welcomed, with counter terrorism, cybercrime and serious and organised crime being high on the Public Protection agenda for Renfrewshire Council.
 - 1.5 The final date for submissions to the consultation was 17 February 2017. The views of the Community Planning Partners were sought at the Safer & Stronger Thematic Board on 7th February 2017. 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 Housing and Community Safety Policy Board:
- (i) Notes the consultation on the HMICS annual scrutiny plan.
 - (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 highlighted in the Council's response.
- 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 2015-16, was issued in December 2015.
- 3.3 Scrutiny activity has focused around a rolling programme of Local Policing inspections together with thematic inspections and specific audit and assurance reviews. In addition HMICS have accommodated unplanned scrutiny activity as a result of ministerial direction and a specific request from the Scottish Police Authority. This has included a scrutiny report on the Counter Corruption Unit as reported to this Board on 23 August 2016.
- 3.4 HMICS intend to continue with Local Policing inspections during 2017-18, and have already committed in principle to the scrutiny of Forensic Services, Cyber Policing, Counter Terrorism and Undercover Policing. HMICS have some capacity to address any topical, high risk or emerging areas in policing and would welcome views on proposals or on any other areas which may benefit from scrutiny during 2017-18.
- 3.5 From a Renfrewshire perspective, local relationships with Police Scotland and with the Scottish Police Authority are excellent (as reported to this Policy Board via the Strategic Police Priorities and the Annual Review of Policing at the last Board) and the areas of thematic inspection activity that are set out in the current plan reflect the key areas of the Public Protection Agenda including counter terrorism, cybercrime and serious and organised crime.
- 3.6 The response submitted, and attached for homologation, welcomes the focus of the HMICS as set out in their proposed Scrutiny Plan for 2017-18.
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Implications of this Report

- 1. **Financial** - none.
- 2. **HR and Organisational Development** – none

3. **Community Planning**

Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire – The inspection activity detailed above by HMICS will scrutinise the work being undertaken by Police Scotland and ensure the activities are appropriately undertaken and reported by Police Scotland.

A Greener Renfrewshire – none

Renfrewshire forum for Empowering Communities – none

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 and Safety** – none.

9. **Procurement** – none.

10. **Risk** – none.

11. **Privacy Impact** – none.

List of Background Papers - none

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Renfrewshire Council's response to the consultation on HMICS Plan 2017-18

HMICS annually consults with stakeholders regarding their scrutiny plan.

Renfrewshire Council and other Community Planning partners have reviewed the HMICS Scrutiny Plan through the Safer and Stronger Thematic Board and agree that the focus reflects the priorities for Renfrewshire.

Localism is a key driver for Renfrewshire Council therefore it welcomes the continued programmed inspection of local policing. The Cyber policing (of cyber-crime) and Counter Terrorism focus for HMICS are also welcomed as they link to the prevention of Serious and Organised Crime and CONTEST (Prevent) work that Renfrewshire Council are working alongside Police Scotland on.