



**Renfrewshire  
Council**

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**To:** Police and Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee

**On:** 15 March 2022

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**Report by:** Director of Communities and Housing Services

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**Heading:** Policing Performance 2021/2022 – Local Authority Feedback

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## 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) was created in 2012 under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and provides oversight and scrutiny to the Chief Constable of Police Scotland and the Police force as a whole.
- 1.2 The SPA produces, on an annual basis, a single assessment of performance across the policing system which is incorporated into their Annual Report and Accounts.
- 1.3 The assessment the SPA makes of the delivery of policing in Scotland, and the focus of the Annual Report and Accounts is set against progress towards the 5 joint strategic outcomes laid out in the Strategic Police Plan, and the impact of the activities described in the Annual Police Plan and associated Local Police Plans.
- 1.4 The 5 joint strategic outcomes are:
  - Threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive police service;
  - The needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery;
  - The public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing;
  - Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to service the public;
  - Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges.

- 1.5 The SPA Acting Chief Executive (Strategy and Performance), Barry Sillars wrote to local authority Chief Executives including Renfrewshire Council on 2 February 2022 requesting input into the performance of Police Scotland during 2021/22.
  - 1.6 The final date for submissions to the letter 1 May 2022. A draft response to this request from the Council is attached as Appendix 1 for the approval of members and will be submitted in line with the timescales provided.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee:
    - (i) notes the request for feedback from the SPA into policing performance in 2021/22; and
    - (ii) approves the Council's consultation response as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 As previously reported to the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee, the Strategic Police Plan details 5 high level outcomes that Police Scotland wish to achieve before going into detail on 3 objectives on how they plan to deliver the outcomes. Throughout the strategy, Police Scotland highlight the current challenges, what policing in the future will look like and how they will tackle the objectives.
- 3.2 A copy of the Strategic Police Plan can be read at:  
<https://www.spa.police.uk/spa-media/aqmailw/joint-strategy-for-policing-2020-v10-spa-amendment.pdf>
- 3.3 The outcomes (bold) and objectives (bullet points) of the strategy are given below:

### **Outcome 1 – Threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive police service**

- Keep people safe in the physical and digital world
- Design services jointly to tackle complex public safety and wellbeing challenges
- Support policing through proactive prevention

### **Outcome 2 – The needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery**

- Understand our communities and deliver the right mix of services to meet their needs
- Support our communities through a blend of local and national expertise
- Support the changing nature of communities

### **Outcome 3 – The public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing**

- Embed the ethical and privacy considerations that are integral to policing and protection into every aspect of the service
- Protect the public and promote wellbeing across Scotland by providing services that are relevant, accessible and effective
- Work with local groups and public, third and private sector organisations to support our communities

### **Outcome 4 – Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public**

- Prioritise wellbeing and keep our people safe, well equipped and protected
- Support our people to be confident leaders, innovative, active contributors and influencers
- Support our people to identify with and demonstrate Police Scotland values and have a strong sense of belonging

### **Outcome 5 – Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges**

- Use innovative approaches to accelerate our capacity and capability for effective service delivery
- Commit to making a positive impact through outstanding environmental sustainability
- Support operational policing through the appropriate digital tools and delivery of best value

- 3.4 The strategy was implemented as a 3-year plan that will filter through both the Annual Police Plan and Local Police Plans. In turn, these will be monitored through assessing performance via quarterly returns to the Scottish Police Authority and the SPA's Annual Review of Policing.
- 3.5 The draft response detailed in Appendix 1 focuses on the excellent working relationship between Police Scotland (K Division) and Renfrewshire Council through the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership.

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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 and providing appropriate scrutiny, 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**

- a) Strategic Police Priorities – Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee, 14 January 2020
- b) Consultation on the joint strategy for Policing (2020) - Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee, 10 March 2020
- c) Local Police Plans - Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee, 17 August 2021

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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## **Renfrewshire Council's response to SPA review of policing performance in 2021/22**

Renfrewshire Council and Police Scotland continue to have an excellent relationship, particularly as key partners of the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership. Performance has remained high despite the challenges faced by both organisations in the face of the on-going global pandemic.

Leadership and communication has been strong from the Divisional Commander (Chief Superintendent Duncan) and his staff, with all levels of the Renfrewshire Council structure including Elected Members, the Chief Executive and front-line officers.

During 2021/22, Mr Duncan or his deputies attended frequent meetings (weekly for a period of time) to provide ongoing updates to the Council Corporate Management Team on the COVID-19 pandemic and Council Officers including the Head of Communities and Public Protection (Renfrewshire Council) attended divisional Op-Talla Gold Command meetings covering the Police Scotland response. The Divisional Commander also attended key meetings to provide key briefings for Elected Members on the impact of the pandemic on Policing at a local level.

Additional meetings of the Community Protection Chief Officers Group were also held through the pandemic lockdown periods to allow vital public protection issues to be considered and addressed by the Chief Officers in light of the impact of the pandemic on specific care services and other support for vulnerable residents including adult protection and child protection concerns.

This led to a high degree of confidence across each organisation of the approach being taken, and supported close working relationships with regards to interpreting and delivering the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2021. This was particularly important for the local authority Environmental Health and Trading Standards teams to ensure consistency across the 4 E's (Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce) as applied by all regulators and enforcement agencies in Renfrewshire.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual meetings became the norm and this was very important for the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership Daily Tasking meeting. The Local Authority Liaison Officer was exemplary in still reviewing incidents over the previous 24-48 hours to allow for cases to be disposed to the appropriate partner. This allowed this vital early intervention meeting to continue and ensured community needs were met quickly and decisively. Police Scotland K Division were at the forefront of this. During the year the division also supported the development of multi-agency monthly tasking meetings to focus on repeat cases coming to Daily Tasking.

A major component of work undertaken during 2021 in the face of the pandemic was the Scottish Elections held in May 2021. For Renfrewshire, this included 68 polling places across Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde and the Count at the Braehead Arena taking place over 2 days. Regular Police attendance at meetings, training sessions and then on the days of the Election and count were vital in ensuring a safe and compliant event.

Renfrewshire Council has been working closely with Police Scotland (locally and nationally) on responding to Serious and Organised Crime and the CONTEST (Prevent) agenda. A number of significant successes have been achieved by the Division in identifying and shutting down pill presses locally with significant disruption of these criminal activities. Support for CONTEST has included participation in the continuation of Prevent Multi Agency Panels (PMAP) to facilitate and discuss people that are potentially vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. These have been important to allow information sharing and interventions to be put in place and with joint working, awareness of the Prevent process remains high and referrals are being maintained at similar levels to those seen prior to the pandemic – which is reassuring.

Following the tragic death of a 14 years-old boy in the River Gryfe in June 2021, Police Scotland agreed to sit on the Renfrewshire Water Safety Working Group. In addition, and to facilitate new Public Rescue Equipment, £10k was donated from the Divisional Commander's fund to improve water safety. Police Scotland have been instrumental in assisting with ensuring the signage is GPS located to allow a quick response (fed into STORM Control) and have supported the development of suicide prevention arrangements for new bridges that are due to be delivered as part of the City Deal project.

Two other areas of performance improvement have been taken forward to address specific Divisional issues of concern. Renfrewshire Council and Police Scotland (K Division) receive regular complaints with regards to anti-social behaviour from quad/off road bikes. Whilst Officers from G Division assisted on some occasions, it became clear that a divisional resource was required. Work is now underway to deliver 2 quad bikes in a partnership project that can be used to proactively deter anti-social behaviour.

In another pilot, Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) were put in place around 4 schools to prevent vehicles from moving in/out of streets during set times before and after schools. This offence can only be enforced by Police Scotland. While zones cannot be patrolled as often as would be preferred due to other Policing priorities, it has been noted that whenever asked, Officers attend as often as possible.

In summary despite the significant pressures on Policing over the past year at a Divisional level generated by the ongoing pressures of the pandemic response and the significant draw on local resources to support the COP26 Climate change summit, K Division has maintained local community policing performance while developing and supporting new and innovative partnership arrangements to support and protect the most vulnerable in our communities or address local issues of concern.