

To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board

On: 7 February 2017

Report by:

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Consultation on HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) Scrutiny Plan 2017-2018

1. Summary

- 1.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Scotland (HMICS) is reviewing their annual Scrutiny Plan to develop a planned inspection programme for 2017/18.
- 1.2 In planning for 2017/18, HMICS has 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.
- 1.3 HMICS are seeking 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.
- 1.4 These plans are consistent with previous years with counter terrorism, cybercrime and serious and organised crime being high on the Public Protection agenda for Renfrewshire Council.
- 1.5 A response date of 17 February 2017 has been provided by HMICS.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board:
 - a) Note the contents of this report.
 - b) Provide views on any proposals or any other areas they consider would benefit from scrutiny by HMICS during 2017-18 and that they would like the Council to



consider in its response to Chris Dalrymple, Regulatory and Enforcement Manager in Renfrewshire Council by Tuesday 14 February 2017.

- c) Note that the Council's response to HMICS on its proposed scrutiny plan for 2017/18 will be presented to the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board at its meeting on 14 March 2017.

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 issued a consultation on their forward workplan 2014 – 2017 in November 2013 and a response was submitted by the Council Chief Executive at that time. 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 Thematic Board on 31 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 Thematic Board via Strategic Police Priorities and the Annual Review of Policing) 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



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