
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

22 November 2021

Police Fire and Rescue Committee

Title: Police Scotland Consultation on the Review of Development of Local Police Plans

Purpose: To advise the Committee of the response submitted to the consultation request.

Recommendation: That the Committee notes the terms of the consultation response submitted.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council, along with the other local authorities and community planning partnerships, were requested to participate in a review of Police Scotland's development of Local Police Plans for 2020-23 which is being taken forward jointly by the Scottish Police Authority (SPA), Police Scotland and COSLA.
- 1.2 The response to the consultation was prepared in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and is detailed in Appendix 1. The Committee is asked to note the response.

2. Background

- 2.1 Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority and COSLA agreed to work together to undertake a review of the development of the Local Police Plans to identify areas of development and best practice which will then inform future local planning processes. The review sought the views of local authority elected members leading on scrutiny of local policing and officials involved in the last planning cycle of local police plans.
- 2.2 The review sought feedback on the following broad areas:
 - How effectively do Police Scotland engage with you on changing local priorities?
 - How effective do you consider current scrutiny of LPP delivery at local level to be?
 - How can the process to produce a Local Police Plan be enhanced and improved?
 - What measures could be used to strengthen the local relevance of Local Police Plans?

2.3 A meeting was scheduled for 26th August 2021 to enable Elected Members to discuss the consultation document. The meeting convened but was inquorate. The Head of Democratic Services therefore liaised with the Chair of the Committee to prepare and submit a response to the consultation which is detailed at Appendix 1

3. Proposals

3.1 That the Committee notes the consultation response submitted.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Human Resources

4.2 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

Legal

4.3 There are no Legal implications arising from this report.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 Police Scotland will assess the outcomes of the consultation exercise for equality, diversity and socio-economic outcomes.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 There are no Environmental implications arising from this report.

Key Priorities

4.6 The response to the consultation contributes to the Council's priorities of developing and promoting Aspiring Communities in North Ayrshire with active and strong communities where residents and communities are safe.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 There are no Community Wealth Building benefits arising from this report.

5. Consultation

5.1 Police Scotland will consult on any actions they propose to take in response to the consultation responses received from members of the public and strategic partners.

Aileen Craig
Head of Service (Democratic

For further information please contact **Aileen Craig, Head of Service (Democratic)**, on 01294 324125.

Background Papers

Appendix 1

Police Scotland

Consultation on Review of Development of Local Police Plans

Response from North Ayrshire Council

Background and Consultation Request

Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority and COSLA have agreed to work together to undertake a review of the development of the Local Police Plans to identify areas of development and best practice which will then inform future local planning processes. The review seeks the views of local authority elected members leading on scrutiny of local policing and officials involved in the last planning cycle of local police plans.

The consultation seeks responses on the following broad areas: -

- How effectively do Police Scotland engage with you on changing local priorities?
- How effective do you consider current scrutiny of LPP delivery at local level to be?
- How can the process to produce a Local Police Plan be enhanced and improved?
- What measures could be used to strengthen the local relevance of Local Police Plans?

Response from North Ayrshire Council

This response provides some general or high-level feedback on the consultation request. The Council recognises that further consultation and more in-depth engagement will take place following on from this response. It is noted that a response has also been provided by North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership. This response has been prepared for the Council under the authority of the Police Fire and Rescue Committee fulfilling its scrutiny role as required by statute.

It is recognised that Police Scotland in preparing the most recent plan, undertook a programme of engagement which included:

- Circulation of the draft plan to all 6 locality partnerships with presentations where possible. All Locality Partnerships were offered the opportunity to provide feedback to influence the drafting process. The Council understands that the feedback provided by the Locality Partnerships reflected positive comment on the proposals contained in the draft plan.

- Agreeing that North Ayrshire Council put the draft plan on their Consultation Hub for community engagement
- Public Health facilitated a Health Impact Assessment which was supported by North Ayrshire Council staff involving community planning partners. This identified Children and Young People as an area of focus which was reflected in the final version of the Local Police Plan.
- A presentation was given to the CPP Senior Officers Group and CPP Board which sought feedback and comment.
- The Chair of the North Ayrshire Police, Fire and Rescue Committee was given a specific briefing on the final draft of the plan in advance of the presentation to the Committee meeting.

The Council recognises that extensive engagement has taken place involving both groups within the CPP as well as the lead officer for the CPP in developing the draft plan and shaping local priorities which thereafter formed the draft Local Police plan for wider consultation. The involvement of the Police Fire and Rescue Committee in its scrutiny function was not involved in this process and was presented with the final draft plan for approval at its meeting on 17th May 2021. Whilst Members of the Committee were content with the local priorities resolved upon and the focus for future delivery of policing in the locality and were happy to recommend adoption of the Plan to full Council, Committee Members are of the view that earlier engagement with the committee to discuss priorities and content of the draft plan would be welcome. That having been said, the Committee wishes to emphasise that it is very satisfied with the content of the Local Police Plan and with the consultation and engagement which took place to inform its content.

In preparation for future local police plans, it is suggested that earlier formal engagement with the Committee is built into the process to provide updates on changing local priorities and the evidence base for reaching those conclusions. Whilst there is already a positive relationship of information sharing and cooperation between the police and local authority, it is recommended that the circle is completed by more formal involvement in the consultation and engagement process with the Police Fire and Rescue Committee. In general, the information formally presented to the Committee relates to quarterly performance statistics to enable the Committee to fulfil its scrutiny function. The Committee would therefore welcome inclusion earlier in the local plan preparation process in a similar way to the early involvement undertaken with the CPP.

In terms of the current reporting of progress on delivery and outcomes, the Committee is very satisfied with the well-presented information which comes before it on a quarterly basis and that our local police have responded to specific requests for

information which have subsequently been built into the standard reporting mechanism (e.g. taser deployment).

The Council is keen to assist and be involved in any way towards improvement of processes and outcomes for policing and our communities as a whole and looks forward to continuing to work positively in embracing partnership working with Police Scotland in taking matters forward.

Conclusion

The Council welcomes the consultation on review of future development of Local Police Plans and looks forward to working further with Police Scotland in developing the consultation process for future plans and building on good practice.

Aileen Craig
Head of Democratic Services
North Ayrshire Council