
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

25 August 2020

Police Fire and Rescue Committee

Title: Scottish Police Authority Consultation on Joint Strategy for Policing 2020

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

Recommendation: That the Committee notes the response submitted.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) was consulting on its Joint Strategy for Policing 2020 and sought the views of local authorities. The response required to be lodged by 2nd March 2020. The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the consultation response submitted.

2. Background

2.1 The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) was consulting on its updated Joint Strategy for Policing following the Scottish Government's update of its Strategic Police Priorities. The consultation sought input on the vision developed in the new Strategy.

2.2 At the last Committee on 4th February 2020, the Senior Manager, Legal Services was instructed to prepare a response for submission to SPA after consulting with the Chair of the Committee. In accordance with the instructions of the Committee, the response was prepared and lodged on 2nd March 2020. A copy of the response is attached at Appendix 1.

2.3 In summary, the priorities proposed by SPA reflect the direction of travel required to provide a modern, comprehensive, proactive and responsive police service. The Council welcomed the priorities suggested by SPA and confirmed that the Council looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Police to improve outcomes for our communities.

3. Proposals

3.1 That the Committee notes the response submitted to the Scottish Police Authority.

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

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive

For further information please contact **Aileen Craig, Senior Manager, Legal Services**, on 01294 324322.

Background Papers

Appendix 1

**Scottish Police Authority
Joint Strategy for Policing 2020
Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland
Response from North Ayrshire Council**

Background and Consultation Request

The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) is consulting on its refreshed Joint Strategy for Policing following the Scottish Government having updated its Strategic Police Priorities. The SPA is undertaking the consultation to seek views on its future vision developed and described in its Strategy.

The consultation seeks responses on the following broad areas: -

Keeping People Safe

Communities at the heart of policing

Involvement with the public, community and partner engagement and confidence

Supporting our people

Sustainable policing for the future

Response from North Ayrshire Council

This response provides some general or high level feedback on the consultation request. The Council recognises that all public services need to change and adapt to ensure that they are fit to serve and meet the needs of local communities in accordance with the principles of the Christie Commission and welcomes the SPA consultation.

The priorities highlighted reflect the direction of travel required to provide a modern, comprehensive, proactive and responsive police service. The priorities reflect the need to adapt resources to meet changing demands including digital and cybercrime. A proactive, preventative approach is welcomed. The suggested proprieties will assist in keeping people safe. It is important that a comprehensive action plan is put in place to deliver the priorities and that governance and accountability should form a key part in monitoring the effectiveness of the strategy which is developed.

Steps should be taken, not only to tackle crime but to involve and reassure communities and help them to feel safe from the threats that they perceive. It is important to invest in resources and skills to address emerging threats to public and community wellbeing. Visibility and approachability in the local communities will foster good relationships and build community confidence and cooperation. Improving accessibility to services and information through increased use of digital technology should be promoted but not to the detriment of personal dialogue if this is the more appropriate. Awareness raising of preventative measures communities can take, may assist with reducing demand. Community and partner engagement should be prioritised. Consideration should be given to working with partners, including the third sector, to reduce re-offending and initiatives should be pursued to explore alternative

rehabilitation programmes. Local commanders should be empowered to deliver services according to local needs and demands and embrace partnership working.

There is a need to ensure that resources are targeted towards the differing needs and agreed priorities for communities. This requires focus on outcomes not processes, rejecting a 'one size fits all' approach, and involving communities in agreeing priorities and supporting delivery of those priorities. This in turn will improve outcomes and protect people from harm.

It is vital that a prompt, approachable and responsive service is provided. Initiatives for information gathering and sharing to foster public confidence and community engagement should be promoted and developed which may provide dividends by leading to a reduction in demand and co-operation. Early intervention initiatives, in cooperation with partners, should be pursued to reduce crime. Education programmes in schools, community meetings and events should be promoted. Continued development of the use of social media platforms for information sharing will reach a wide audience.

All public services need to make the best use of resources, in terms of people, process improvement and the developing digital change agenda. It is agreed that people are a vital resource to the Police and that a well motivated and supported staff will provide a proactive and responsive service to our communities. Investment in the development of the workforce and provision of the necessary resources will enable staff to reach their potential, prepare them to meet current and new challenges as well as the expectations of communities.

Conclusion

The Council welcomes the priorities suggested by the SPA and looks forward to working in partnership with the Police to improve outcomes for our communities.

Aileen Craig
Senior Manager Legal Services
North Ayrshire Council