

REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 6 JUNE 2019

CONSULTATION – ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICING 2018/19

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Agree the response to the consultation on “Annual Review of Policing 2018/19 – reflecting the local authority voice”.**

2 Discussion

- 2.1 The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) is currently preparing its Annual Review of Policing for 2018/19 and Annual Report. The documents publicly report on how Police Scotland and the SPA have performed over the course of the year. The SPA is keen to make sure that views and experiences of policing can inform the process. A short set of questions were drafted to help gather and understand views.
- 2.2 Police Scotland is a key partner of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership. As such, it was decided that Aberdeenshire Council would submit a response, led by the Corporate Policy and Strategic Community Planning Team, collating views of appropriate officers from across services. The questions were emailed on 11 April 2018, with a closing date of 30 April 2019 for responses.
- 2.3 Responses were received from Area Managers, Community Planning Officers and the Transport Team. The formal deadline for submissions to the SPA was 31 May 2019, however, an extension was sought and granted to enable elected members time to consider and endorse the response (Appendix 1).
- 2.4 In summary, Aberdeenshire Council has a positive working relationship with Police Scotland in relation to road safety and from a community planning perspective, representation of local Police Officers at various council and partnership meetings is invaluable in helping deliver local priorities.
- 2.5 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and have no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider, and take a decision on, this item in terms of Section D4.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance to approve a Council response to any external consultation on any policy matter falling within the delegation of the Committee.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the report is to inform the Communities Committee on a consultation process and there will be no differential impact, because of the report, on people with protected characteristics.

There are no specific financial and staffing implications due to this report.

There are also no Town Centre First principle implications.

The following risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

[Changes in government policy, legislation and regulation](#) - this is controlled through COSLA membership, SOLACE membership and membership of professional bodies at both corporate & individual level

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services

Report prepared by: Moyra Stephen, Strategic Policy Lead, Corporate & Strategic Community Planning Team, 01 May 2019



APPENDIX 1 - Local authority views on the year in policing 2018/19

Name of your local authority: **Aberdeenshire Council**

During 2018/19 -

1. How effective do you think Police Scotland's support for local scrutiny and engagement with your committee has been, in the past year?

Police Scotland report to Aberdeenshire Council's six Area Committees on a quarterly basis providing feedback for inclusion in the six-monthly Monitoring Reports which is well received. As well as this Police Scotland attends 2 formal and 2 informal meetings per year within some of the Areas.

Police Scotland is also a member of the local Community Planning Groups (LCPGs), however, membership varies across the 6 Areas. Although all Areas have good working relationships with the local Inspectors and Sergeants, increased liaison with more senior officers at some LCPG meetings would be welcomed.

Police Scotland officers play a key role in helping to identify and prioritise emerging issues in the Areas and enhances partnership working.

The overview for local performance is considered by Communities Committee which receives regular updates and is able to scrutinise and challenge the performance of Police Scotland.

2. How well do you think your local police plan reflected local priorities in 2018/19?

When considering local road safety but in a broader, council-wide context, Police Scotland has maintained an effective working relationship with Aberdeenshire Council and other local road safety partners. It fully participates in our local road safety operating structure Road Safety North East Scotland (RSNES) and delivers appropriate services and targeted interventions in support of our partnership activities.

Road safety continues to feature prominently in local community concerns, and it is apparent that Police Scotland's North East Division / Road Policing Division makes good use of social media in highlighting their road policing, road safety and road crime related activity. Local Community Policing Team social media output across Aberdeenshire contains regular updates on locally based road

safety activity, demonstrating that community concerns are being responded to and that the Road Safety and Road Crime priority is being addressed.

At an Area level the priorities reflect local priorities e.g. The priority outlined in both East Garioch/West Garioch on Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Focus clearly aligns with the priorities in the Garioch Community Plan, working together in partnership to effectively target resources to address priorities in the local area.

3. How effective has Police Scotland's reporting against the priorities in your local police plan been, in helping you understand how policing is performing?

The Road Safety and Road Crime chapter within Police Scotland's regular update to the council's Communities' Services Committee contains a sufficiency of summarised data and information, which allows interested parties to gain a clear understanding of ongoing work and performance in this area.

In relation to Local Community Planning groups, two monitoring reports for the respective Local Community Plans are produced each year, using performance indicators in the Community Plan. This is produced in the form of concise, comprehensive updates, with in depth overviews of initiatives and projects in the Areas involving Police Scotland. The reports also present an opportunity to highlight any challenges incurred in delivering these projects to partners.

4. During 2018/19, do you think policing's performance in your area has improved, stayed about the same, or has dipped?

Aberdeenshire Council has always enjoyed a positive working relationship with the police in a road safety context and acknowledges the local authority's position as having the statutory responsibility for local road safety. During 2018/19, it is considered there has been a slight improvement in policing performance during the past year, which is primarily due to closer liaison and enhanced partnership working which has occurred in several road safety related outcomes.

During 2018/19, it was pleasing to see a slight change in operational delivery when Police Scotland increased their local involvement in practical 'hands-on' road safety activities. On a local basis, this was demonstrated their motorcycle safety campaign 'Rider Refinement North'. While Police Scotland continue to be the main provider of this initiative, engagement and joint working with the local authority was warmly welcomed.

Aberdeenshire Council is one of three bordering local authorities who form part of Road Safety North East Scotland (RSNES) and this is the formalised structure which oversees the north-east's approach to road safety and road casualty reduction. Police Scotland provide representatives from (a) North East Division - with its strategic ownership of the local road safety policing priority, (b) Road Policing Division, with its divisional wide remit, and (c) the North Safety Camera Unit.

From a community planning perspective, inspectors and /or local sergeants are always more than willing to discuss issues. Their involvement and integration has definitely increased and improved, but some council officers represented on community planning groups feel detection rates vary.

5. What are the top three things about policing in your area, which are working really well?

Police Scotland's active participation, in both the operational and strategic levels of RSNES, adds considerable value to the overall partnership based local road safety and road casualty reduction effort.

From Community Planning the attendance and engagement of local Police Officers at Community Council meetings has been appreciated and invaluable in feeding back on the impact of local police initiatives in local villages. The change in the format of the reports being seen at Community Councils is a real positive. Also, some community councils have experienced an increase in attendance from Police Scotland which has been welcomed.

Police Scotland are regular and a supportive presence at Local Community Planning events including annual Joint Meetings with Area Committees, Area Management Teams and the Local Community Planning Groups. In one particular Area, the introduction of the "Beat Bobby" project is starting to work well with the general public seeing an increased presence, which is making them feel safer. As well as this Police Surgeries were introduced locally in March, which were reasonably well attended, given the short timescale in which they were organised. Work has begun on raising awareness of those planned for later in the year which will be held in more central locations in the hope of increasing participation.

The continued development of the Community Safety Hub, through collaborative working, enhances the work of the statutory partners and agencies to look at issues concerning community safety in our local areas, which is proving an effective way to share information and resources.

In relation to social media, access to material on the internet has seen an upturn in reported incidents of young people becoming vulnerable to exploitation. Technology and applications continue to develop at a fast pace

with side effects to society and young people often unknown until issues arise.

Other local examples are Aberdeenshire Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) who, in partnership with Police Scotland and Community Learning and Development are working together with young people in our schools to deter the use of controlled drugs.

School Liaison Officers are supporting our Academies to educate young people about the dangers of illegal drugs.

6. What are your top three priorities for improvement, linked to policing in your local area?

Transport Team Priorities:

Road Safety

Road Policing

Emergency Planning.

Local Communities:

Tackling inequalities (alcohol)

Protection of vulnerable people

Reduction in anti-social behaviour.

7. Are there any examples of good practice or innovation in your local area you want to highlight, and that could be adopted as good practice in other council areas? Please provide details below.

The RSNES approach, which sees the police as one of several key local partners, appears to work well is considered good practice. While organisational boundaries and responsibilities remain and are respected, a genuine spirit of partnership exists within the group.

A backdrop of limited resources and financial constraints increasingly means that working in partnership becomes a necessity, if the national road casualty reduction targets are to be achieved.

While RSNES may not be the perfect or complete operating model, it offers a regional approach to road safety which encompasses three local authority areas: this, in turn, mirrors the geographic area of Police Scotland's North East Division. It is understood that several other areas in Scotland are currently considering, or reconfiguring, their local partnership road safety approach.

Development of Parksmart projects and working with local Parent Councils, producing ParkSmart banners, community engagement, local leaflets and meetings.

Community Safety Hub - The Anti-Social Behaviour(ASB) Hub meetings run twice a week and involve statutory partners such as Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) and Aberdeenshire Council (Community Safety, Safer Community Wardens, Housing Officers and Mediations Officers). The purpose of the meetings are to share information about ASB across Aberdeenshire and look at ways that, collectively, the issues can be addressed. This good example of collaborative working ensures information and resources are effectively targeted.

The Police Surgeries, which are going to widen to involve more partners, were a really good way of engaging with the public in a non-confrontational way. It provides members of the public with the opportunity to raise a number of issues. At one surgery, a police officer and a council officer walked a lady home to investigate an issue that was raised.

8. What would you like to see the SPA to do more of, to help you in your scrutiny role and to support better local outcomes?

Continuing role as a participatory partner, engaging with the Area Offices, Communities Committee, Elected Members, Community Councils and members of the public allowing everyone to see what is important in their respective areas. Keeping in regular contact is invaluable as all parties know the door is always open, even for an informal chat.

About your local scrutiny arrangements

9. How would you describe your local scrutiny arrangements for policing?

- Dedicated Policing or Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee/ Sub Committee
- Scrutiny committee looking at wider range of services
- **Community Safety Committee / Community Planning Sub Committee**
- Full Council
- Political lead and strategic discussion at full council or committee, and local discussion at area / neighbourhood level
- Other – please describe

10. How many elected members are regularly involved in your local police scrutiny processes?

The Communities Committee has an important role in the scrutiny and performance of Police Scotland. In addition, all Aberdeenshire elected members are represented at local Area Committees. Elected members are also represented on their respective Local Community Planning Groups as well as local Community Safety groups.

11. Is there any additional information or feedback you would like to share?

No further comments.

What we do with this information.

Data you provide will inform an overview in the Annual Review of Policing.

The information provided will not be disseminated to any other third party out with the Scottish Police Authority without written permission. As in previous years we would appreciate your participation in allowing the authority to publish your examples and feedback within the Annual Review of Policing.

Please select below:

I am happy for the information provided to inform the Annual Review of Policing

Yes

I am happy for specific examples and feedback from this local authority to be included in the Annual Review.

Yes

Details of our Privacy Statement can be found at:

<http://www.spa.police.uk/about-us/privacy/>

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback. Responses and any queries should be sent to SPACommunityAccountability@spa.pnn.police.uk by **Friday 31st May**.

If you have any queries or comments about the process, please contact the Community Accountability Team Eleanor Gaw, 01786 896886 or Fiona Miller 01786 896 966.