

**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE – 25 APRIL 2016

**REPORT ON:** SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PRE-CONSULTATION – “REVIEW OF OUR STRATEGIC POLICE PRIORITIES”

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

**REPORT NO:** 155-2016

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the ongoing engagement process being carried out by Scottish Government on the review of Scottish Strategic Police Priorities and to seek approval to submit on behalf of the Council the response included at Appendix 1.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the submission of the response included at Appendix 1 of this report to Scottish Government as part of their Review of our Scottish Police Priorities.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services has advised that there are no financial implications resulting from this report.

## **4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Scottish Government are currently conducting a review of Scottish Police priorities. In advance of formal consultation planned for the summer of 2016, they recently published a discussion document and circulated this to a variety of stakeholders, including local authorities, inviting views on what stakeholder priorities for policing are. The paper is available on the Scottish Government website:  
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Justice/policies/police-fire-rescue/police-scotland/StrategicPolicePriorities>
- 4.2 A draft response has been prepared and is attached at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 4.3 The review comes at an opportune time for Dundee. The new Chief Constable of Police Scotland has been appointed and a new area Commander for Dundee will shortly take up his post. A number of other related plans are being reviewed during the course of this year, including the Dundee Local Policing Plan and the Dundee Single Outcome Agreement. We are also about to undertake a strategic assessment of priorities for the Dundee Community Safety Partnership.
- 4.4 The proposed response emphasises the opportunity to build on existing good partnership work going on in Dundee with the City Council, Police Scotland and other partners and to ensure that our strategies and plans are aligned with both local and national priorities. It also makes reference to issues of particular relevance to Dundee, where Police Scotland have a key role to play.
- 4.5 There will be a further opportunity to contribute to the review of Scottish Police Priorities when the Scottish Government launches their formal consultation later in the year.

## **5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

## **6 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None

Elaine Zwirlein  
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Tom Stirling  
Head of Community Safety and Protection

## Appendix 1: Review of our Scottish Police Priorities - Dundee City Council response

Strategic Police Priorities Review  
Police Division  
Scottish Government  
1WR St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

### **Review of our Scottish Police Priorities - Dundee City Council response**

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice wrote to stakeholders in March 2016 advising of progress to date on the pre-consultation conversations about the review of Scottish Police Priorities and invited further comment. Dundee City Council welcomes the opportunity to participate in this process. Our response is set out below and we look forward to the formal consultation later in the summer.

The review of Scottish Police priorities comes at an opportune time. The new Chief Constable has been appointed and in a Dundee context a new area Commander is about to take up his post. A number of other related plans are being reviewed during the course of this year, including the Dundee Local Policing Plan and Dundee Single Outcome Agreement, in line with the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. This presents an opportunity to build on existing good partnership work and to ensure the various strategies and plans are aligned with local and national priorities.

We support the aims of Police Reform in Scotland to protect local services and not to cut the front line as well as the commitment to strengthen the link between police services and communities. In Dundee we have a well established Community Safety Hub which forms the basis of arriving at effective partnership based solutions to local issues. We are keen to look at ways to develop and build on this foundation. We think this links with the existing strategic priorities of Police Scotland in terms of making communities safer and demonstrating pioneering approaches to prevention and collaboration at a local level and to the Dundee Partnership SOA – “our Communities are safe and feel safe”.

The discussion document referred to in the Cabinet Secretary’s letter poses three questions about police services. We have reproduced those below together with our views from a Dundee perspective:

#### **What is important for you about policing in your community?**

We generally work well with Police Scotland, however in recent years there has been a high turnover of police staff in a number of areas where we work together, which can reduce the effectiveness of partnership working. For example, there have been eight different Police leads on the Dundee Community Safety Partnership since 2008. It would be beneficial to have consistent representation for reasonable set periods to help strengthen the partnership ethos between our people and Police Scotland.

It is also important to make effective use of the local scrutiny arrangements and make them about more than simply reporting quarterly statistics. In Dundee we have recently introduced a new Community Safety and Public Protection Committee to provide a forum to discuss the full range of issues and our view is that areas such as complaints about the Police Service and budget information should form part of this scrutiny. This will be the means by which the Council fulfils its scrutiny role for Police Scotland and it is our intention that this will become a vehicle for consultation and discussion on areas of common interest for all Community Planning partners working towards achieving the national and local Single Outcome Agreements through increased collaborative working.

It should be acknowledged that there have been downward trends in almost all major crime groups in Dundee over the last 5-10 years attributable in part to the quality of partnership working that has been in place. The challenge will be to maintain these trends with fewer resources for all the Community Safety Partners.

In terms of local priorities for Dundee, domestic violence, drugs misuse and drug deaths are issues that continue to pose significant challenges for Police Scotland and the Dundee Community Safety Partnership.

**What sort of police service do you want to have?**

In Dundee we want a well resourced police service that is able to fully engage in partnership working with the City Council and other partners to deliver local outcomes through the Community Planning Partnership. We want a police service that provides a mechanism for meaningful consultation on matters of national policing policy and considers how that will impact locally on the citizens of Dundee. The need to deliver improved outcomes in relation to the new SOA will be challenging for Police Scotland and other partners - balancing Police Scotland priorities with local community planning priorities is an issue that needs careful consideration, good communication, consultation and engagement on the part of Police Scotland.

We also recognise that there are national strategies and priorities that Police Scotland need to address in relation to Serious Organised Crime and Counter-Terrorism. In a Dundee context, we are aware of our roles and responsibilities and work in partnership locally with Police Scotland in these areas.

**What is your ambition for policing in the future?**

In Dundee we are keen to innovate and develop new ways of working with Police Scotland. We would like to explore ways to develop and pilot a real partnership working model that could see increased collaboration and sharing of resources to focus on delivering key outcomes for Dundee – in effect a more joined up, integrated approach to Community Safety.