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**Report To:** Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee      **Date:** 21 February 2019

**Report By:** Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development      **Report No:** P&F/01/19/HS

**Contact Officer:** Hugh Scott      **Contact No:** 01475 715459

**Subject:** Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update Report (February 2019)

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee on current and emerging issues relating to Police and Fire and Rescue Services.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides an opportunity for the Committee to be made aware of national initiatives, reviews and consultations and, where appropriate, to inform members' consideration of future agenda items relating to Police and Fire and Rescue matters.
- 2.2 In order to ensure that elected members can make representations to the national authorities as required in relation to wider scrutiny issues and concerns, elected members may be interested to note the following updates from external agencies including, but not limited to, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, Her Majesty's Fire Inspectorate, Audit Scotland and the Accounts Commission in relation to the work carried out by the Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and they will consider and respond to consultations on strategic Police and Fire and Rescue priorities and Scottish Police Authority and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plans. This report is intended to draw these elements together with a view to informing and shaping future meeting agendas as appropriate and raising awareness of emerging issues.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee notes the information contained within the report in respect of current and emerging national issues relating to police and fire and rescue matters.

**Ruth Binks**  
Corporate Director- Education, Communities & Organisational Development

## 4.0 SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

- 4.1 **SPA Board and Committee Meetings:** The last 2018 board meeting of the Scottish Police Authority was held on [27 November 2018](#) and in addition to the regular standing items also considered the following matters: Development of Police Scotland's Performance Framework and British Transport Police - Devolution of Railway Policing Update.

The most recent board meeting of the Scottish Police Authority was held on [30 January 2019](#) and in addition to the regular standing items also considered the following matters: 'Trauma informed Policing' and 'Brexit: Impact on Operational Policing in Scotland Review'.

In respect of Trauma informed Policing, this consisted of a paper and video presentation from Ayrshire Division. The presentation explained that Police Scotland is dealing with an increasing number of calls from people in crisis. From homelessness to addiction, the service is on the front line helping some of the country's most vulnerable people and communities. It is estimated that half of Scotland's population have been affected by adverse childhood experiences (ACES). The presentation provided the SPA with an insight into the scope and breadth of the approach in Ayrshire which is a substantial piece of work across the three Local Authorities, Community Justice Ayrshire, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and HMP Kilmarnock.

In respect of Brexit: Impact on Operational Policing in Scotland Review, this matter was discussed in private in accordance with the SPA's Standing Orders section that discussion in public would likely to inhibit the free and frank provision of advice or the free and frank exchange of views for the purpose of deliberation; and/or disclosure of information could prejudice national security.

- 4.2 **Authority Annual Report and Accounts 2017-18:** The SPA has published its annual report and accounts for the 2017-18 financial year. [The report](#) sets out key developments in the performance of the SPA and in the operation of Police Scotland and details how £1.1 billion of public funds has been utilised to deliver policing to communities across Scotland. In its independent review, Audit Scotland has highlighted a number of important areas of improvement in financial and organisational performance including:

- A year-end resource overspend outturn of £34.4m, reduced from £47.2m deficit included in the approved 2017/18 budget;
- Robust budget monitoring arrangements now in place;
- New leadership teams in both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority;
- The Authority now conducts its business in an open and transparent manner.

Audit Scotland also identified areas for attention including:

- Further improvements in the overall control environment;
- Delays in the development of a robust workforce strategy;
- The need for well-developed performance management framework;
- The need for robust monitoring of the use of contracts for consultancy and external professional support to ensure value for money and the achievement of strategic objectives.

- 4.3 **Annual Review of Policing 2017-18:** The SPA, on 20 November 2018, laid before Parliament its [Annual Review of Policing 2017-18](#). The Committee will recall that at the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee on 27 September 2018, members were asked to retrospectively approve the Inverclyde response to the consultation.

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The SPA invited all Scottish Local Authorities to contribute their views to the annual report and the following themes in the responses included:

- Police Scotland's support for local scrutiny over the course of the year was effective;

- Evidence of strong alignment between local police plans and other local strategies and local outcome improvement plans;
- A desire for increased SPA and Police Scotland engagement with Scottish Local Authorities and would welcome an increased role for the SPA in bringing key partners together strengthening engagement at a national and local level and fostering the sharing of best practice in local scrutiny and engagement.

The report also provided a range of good practice examples from across Scotland and examples of areas which local authorities said can be improved. This included: ensuring that a local approach remains at the forefront of service delivery, recruitment and retaining of officers especially at a senior level, more local community engagement and training on what 'good scrutiny' is about.

## **5.0 HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY IN SCOTLAND**

**5.1 Thematic Review of Police Scotland's approach to the development and operational delivery of the Annual Plan (2018/19).** The [Thematic Review](#) was published on the 13 December 2018 and details how intelligence gathering, analysis, planning and performance can all work effectively to develop and deliver a relevant policing plan, noting twelve recommendations. Two recommendations make note of arrangements in relation to local policing and scrutiny arrangements. One (recommendation two) is to ensure that '...Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority should develop a clear process of governance and engagement around strategic assessment and consideration of priorities as part of their statutory responsibilities in the planning process'. A further recommendation (six) notes 'Police Scotland should develop transparent and consistent reporting of the deployment of specialist or national support resources from Specialist Crime Division and Operational Support Division'. Both of these recommendations suggest a consistency across Scotland to ensure that there is a greater transparency and assurance to the SPA and local scrutiny committees.

**5.2 Annual Report 2017-18:** The [Annual Report](#) was published on 21 December 2018 and outlines how they have carried out their statutory functions for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 which includes the inspection and scrutiny work undertaken by HMICS during the reporting period.

**5.3 Inspection of the strategic arrangements for the delivery of police custody.** This [Terms of Reference](#) aims to assess the strategic arrangements for the delivery of police custody in Scotland. This is the eighth publication into police custody since the formation of Police Scotland, the first focusing on the 'national arrangements for the delivery of police custody, including an assessment of issues such as leadership and governance, resources and partnerships'. The thematic inspection was followed by five inspections of police custody in particular geographical areas and most recently the seventh report, an inspection of 17 custody centres across Scotland, including the custody centre at Greenock. A report of the inspection will be published in Spring 2019.

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## **6.0 SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD**

**6.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Board:** The most recent meeting of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Board was held on [13 December 2018](#) with mostly standing items considered. [Agenda Item 17](#) (Strategic Plan 2019-22 Development Update) advises that a new 3-year Strategic Plan is required by the Scottish Government by October 2019. Work is ongoing with this document at the moment and the Committee should note that an anticipated consultation period of 15 April 2019 to 7 July 2019 is proposed, this consultation will be considered at a future Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee meeting.

**6.2 Transformational Consultation Findings:** A special board meeting was convened on 29 November 2018 to consider results from the [Transformation Consultation](#). The SFRS

undertook a public consultation exercise on its Service Transformation proposals, *Your Service Your Voice, Have Your Say*, from February to May 2018. The then Inverclyde Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub-Committee was one of 1563 responses to the consultation. The report concluded ‘...the Transformation proposals were endorsed by a majority of respondents, but the Service fully appreciates the concerns and issues raised by those who did not. We remain however convinced of the benefits that Transformation will bring to communities throughout Scotland. Consequently it is recommended that the Service continues to proceed with the development of a Transformation programme, while being fully committed to further engaging with those communities, partners and individuals who raised concern during the consultation exercise’.

## 7.0 SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

7.1 **Chief Officer Recruitment:** SFRS has appointed Martin Blunden at its new Chief Officer. Mr Blunden is currently Deputy Chief Officer of South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, and will take up his role in early 2019.

7.2 **Ministerial Working Group:** A ministerial working group set up following the Grenfell Tower Tragedy confirmed its intention in December to introduce legislation in Scotland in 2019 in regards to sound alerts for evacuation in high rise buildings and extending the mandatory installation of sprinklers in new flats. The Ministerial Working Group commissioned two reviews of building standards, one to cover compliance and enforcement and the other fire safety. A public consultation bringing together the recommendations from both reviews closed in September 2018.

## 8.0 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

8.1 None

## 9.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 9.1 Finance

There are no financial implications.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/(savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With effect from	Annual net impact £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

### 9.2 Legal

There are no legal implications.

### 9.3 Human Resources

This report does not impact on Human Resources.

### 9.4 Equalities

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

X

YES (see attached appendix)

NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

## 9.5 Repopulation

This structure is intended to protect and assist the local communities.

## 10.0 CONSULTATIONS

10.1 None.

## 11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 There are no background papers.