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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>6 February 2020</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>P &amp; F/01/20/HS</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Hugh Scott Service Manager</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 715459</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update Report (February 2020)</b>		

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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 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.

This report provides updates for the following:

- The Scottish Police Authority and Scottish Police Authority Board;
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland;
- Police Scotland;
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Board;
- Inverclyde Alliance.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee notes the 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 Chair:** Susan Deacon CBE tendered her resignation as Chair of the SPA Board which was accepted by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Humza Yousaf MSP. In the interim the Vice-Chair of the SPA Board, David Crichton, has been made interim Chair.
- 4.2 **SPA Annual Report and Accounts:** The Annual Report and Accounts of the SPA was published on [17 December 2019](#). The report carried out by Audit Scotland identified that there had been improvements within the SPA over the previous year but after a period of stability is now required to build capacity and plan for a modern and financially stable police service.
- 4.3 **SPA Board Meeting:** The November meeting of the SPA Board was held on 27 November 2019 in Aberdeen. Agenda items included an update in respect of Brexit Contingency Planning, the Police Scotland fleet strategy and legacy matters in respect of the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency. The agenda and associated papers for this meeting can be viewed using the following link: [27 November 2019](#).

## 5.0 HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY IN SCOTLAND (HMICS)

- 5.1 **HMICS consultation for Scrutiny Plan 2020-21-** Each year HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) sets out its Scrutiny Plan outlining how HMICS will meet its statutory purpose to inquire into the state, efficiency and effectiveness of both the Police Service of Scotland ('Police Scotland') and the Scottish Police Authority. This Plan is published in terms of Section 75 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and sets out their inspection plan over the forthcoming year. The Convenor of the Committee has received correspondence via CoSLA (attached) for the Committee to consider any topical, high risk or emerging areas in policing which the Committee considers would benefit from scrutiny by HMICS in 2020-21. A response to this is being considered as a separate agenda item.

## 6.0 POLICE SCOTLAND

- 6.1 **Contact Assessment Model (CAM) Briefing.** The Divisional Commander hosted an All Members' Briefing regarding the introduction of the Contact Assessment Model on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019. This event was attended by the Divisional Commander, Area Commander and CAM Sergeant, Elected Members and Council Officers.

## 7.0 SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE BOARD

- 7.1 The Scottish Fire & Rescue Board hosted their Board meeting at the Beacon Arts Centre on Thursday 31 October. Agenda Items included an update of the Performance Management Framework and the 3 year programme of work (2019-22). The agenda and associated papers for this meeting can be viewed using the following link: [31 October 2019](#).
- 7.2 The Chair of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Board and the Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service hosted an engagement event following the Board meeting. This event was attended by the Convenor and Vice Convenor, Chief Executive of Inverclyde Council and a number of Elected Members and Council Officers. During the event the Chief Executive sought clarity on the local impact following the publication of the SFRS Strategic Plan 2019-22. The Chief Officer and SFRS Board Chair clarified that relevant action plans would be created during the life time of the Strategy and be communicated via local scrutiny arrangements.
- 7.3 The December meeting of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Board was held at the SFRS Headquarters on Thursday 12 December. Agenda items included the Corporate Parenting Plan (2020-23), Grenfell Tower Fire - progress update and a report regarding the development of local plans. The agenda and associated papers for this meeting can be viewed using the following link: [12 December 2019](#).

## **8.0 INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE**

8.1 There was submitted a report to the Inverclyde Alliance Board by the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership in respect of community safety partnership governance arrangements. This report sought approval from the Inverclyde Alliance Board to create a community safety strategy document for the period 2020-22. This matter will be updated at a future committee meeting in the current committee schedule.

## **9.0 INVERCLYDE LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

9.1 There was submitted a report on performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019 to the Inverclyde Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 19 September 2019. During the course of discussion on this item, reference was made by Councillor McVey to a recent press article which referred to a claim that Scottish fire crews were taking almost 40 seconds longer to respond to incidents than a decade ago and he asked if any statistics were available in respect of the Inverclyde area.

9.2 Subsequently Councillor McVey submitted a request on behalf of the Committee to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service regarding three points:

1. Has there been a reduction in the number of fire appliances available and operational within Inverclyde since 2013?
2. Has there been any increase in response times to fires within Inverclyde since 2013?
3. Has there been a reduction in the number of firefighters available within Inverclyde since 2013?

9.3 A response has been provided by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service with the following points noted:

1. There has been no reduction in fire appliances across Inverclyde over the period.
2. There is variance in response times. However, statistically response times have remained broadly the same (at around five minutes) in Inverclyde over the last 10 years.
3. The current staffing level across Inverclyde Wholetime Duty System Stations is equal to staffing levels as in 2013. This position remains on continuous review and at this time there are no plans to change it. The Retained Duty System establishment across Inverclyde from 2013 has not altered.

## **10.0 IMPLICATIONS**

### **10.1 Finance**

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

10.2 **Legal**

N/A

10.3 **Human Resources**

N/A

10.4 **Equalities**

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

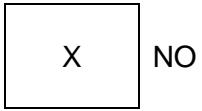
Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
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10.5 **Repopulation**

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

11.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

11.1 N/A

12.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1 Inverclyde Alliance Board- 9 December 2019  
Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership proposed governance arrangements



**Mrs Gillian Imery QPM**  
HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary

BY EMAIL

15<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Sally,

### **Consultation on HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2018-19**

HM Inspectorate for Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) is established under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and has wide ranging powers to look into the 'state, effectiveness and efficiency' of both the Police Service of Scotland (Police Scotland) and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA).

We have a statutory duty to inquire into the arrangements made by the Chief Constable and the SPA to meet their obligations in terms of best value and continuous improvement. We have a requirement to prepare a plan setting out our inspection priorities for the year ahead and to consult with relevant stakeholders in preparing our plan.

HMICS is committed to an improvement agenda, and our inspections aim to help Police Scotland and the SPA improve the service it delivers to the public. In planning for the 2020-21 scrutiny year, which begins on 1 April 2020, we wish to extend our consultation exercise across all our communities served by Police Scotland and the SPA, and partners whose work is an integral part of policing. To this end HMICS will utilise online survey to gather views. This will further enhance our understanding of the key issues impacting on policing across the country.

As an important stakeholder in policing, I would welcome your views and proposals to address any topical, high risk or emerging areas in policing which you consider would benefit from scrutiny by HMICS during 2020-21. I encourage you and your staff to take part in the online survey, which can be accessed on the HMICS website via this link:

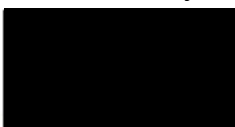
[https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/hmics\\_scrutiny\\_plan\\_2020-21](https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/hmics_scrutiny_plan_2020-21)

### **Closing date for the survey is Friday 17 January 2020**

Your feedback will be collated against the responses from other stakeholders and assessed against our scrutiny risk process to help inform our forthcoming scrutiny plan.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss your response in advance of sending, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



**Gillian Imery**  
HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary

