

## **Justice Sub-Committee on Policing**

### **Letter from Police Scotland to the Convener**

Thank you for your letter of 25 April 2013 following my attendance at the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing. I am pleased you and your members found the input by my colleagues and I valuable.

As I committed to do at the session, I would now like to take the opportunity to answer the questions which were raised by members and those questions which remained outstanding due to the constraint of time on the day.

In relation to local scrutiny arrangements which are in place across the country, I explained during the session that the models of scrutiny which have been adopted across local authorities can be grouped into four broad areas and range from a formal structure to a broader partnership arrangement. I thought it may be useful to provide a brief outline of the approach in place across each authority area and a list is appended to this letter.

Margaret Mitchell MSP raised the matter of the funding and secretarial support for Crime Prevention Panels, quite rightly identifying such groups as being an excellent route for community engagement. Crime Prevention Panels have traditionally adopted a variety of constitutional arrangements, some adopting Trust or charitable status, with the majority forming as Associations. All were supported by the police and some had police officers as office bearers.

Over recent years as local partnership working has been modernised and energised, many Crime Prevention Panels have been subsumed into the wider fora of Community Safety Partnerships and Community Planning Partnerships. The current position is that there remain around 30 Crime Prevention Panels in Scotland, nine of which cumulatively received around £15,000 in financial support from legacy forces in the last financial year. Where these panels continue, the police provide operational support in terms of their involvement however the administrative arrangements are undertaken in the main by community representatives.

As part of the wider necessity to make considerable savings across the Service, the continued funding of Crime Prevention Panels will be assessed as part of an ongoing thematic review of partnership funding arrangements. Police Scotland is committed to keeping the people of Scotland safe and any decision made not to continue police funding of such initiatives will be made after careful consideration of the local impact on communities and in consultation with both communities and our partners.

The Sub Committee also sought clarification in relation to the continued funding by local authorities for additional officers. There are currently 318 police officer posts funded by local authorities, a number which has remained reasonably consistent for several years. Funding for every one of the previously funded police posts has continued into the financial year 2013/14. In some cases that funding has been committed for the following year. We will keep this under close review.

I trust this is helpful to you.

Rose Fitzpatrick QPM  
Deputy Chief Constable  
Local Policing  
14 May 2013

## Local Authority Scrutiny Arrangements

LOCAL AUTHORITY	LOCAL SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS
Aberdeen City	Existing Corporate Policy and Performance Committee of Aberdeen City Council
Aberdeenshire	Existing Policy & Resources Committee
Angus	Police and Fire Sub-Committee of the main council with delegated authority
Argyll and Bute	Existing Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee (PRSC)
City of Edinburgh	New Blue Light Committee
Clackmannanshire	New sub-committee of Resources and Audit Committee
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Existing Environment and Protective Services Committee
Dumfries and Galloway	Existing Police, Fire and Rescue Committee
Dundee City	Policy and Resources Committee but separate meeting structure for community safety, police and fire local governance
East Ayrshire	Governance and Scrutiny Committee augmented by quarterly updates to the Cabinet (Full Council). The CPP Board also scrutinises the plans and have updates presented to them
East Dunbartonshire	Existing committee overseen by Community Planning Partnership and Community Safety Partnership
East Lothian	East Lothian Partnership
East Renfrewshire	Through the Councils Cabinet
Falkirk	Executive and scrutiny committee model. The executive will comprise 12 members which will include 8 portfolio holders. Police will be in Public Protection portfolio.
Fife	Police Transition Committee
Glasgow City	Safe Glasgow Group through Council Executive Committee
Highland	New committee created – Community Safety, Public Engagement Committee looking at more than Police and Fire
Inverclyde	Education and Communities Committee
Midlothian	Safer Communities Board
Moray	New Police and Fire Committee

North Ayrshire	Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee. There are also updates to the Cabinet (Full Council)
North Lanarkshire	New Community Safety Partnership Forum for Policy and Resources Committee. Made up of 15 elected members including the chairs of each of the 6 Local Area Partnerships
Orkney Islands	New Police and Fire Sub Committee which reports to Orkney Islands Council
Perth and Kinross	Community Safety Committee as the local governance group. No delegated authority and the plan approved by Full Council
Renfrewshire	Housing and Community Safety Policy Board
Scottish Borders	The Police, Fire and Safer Communities Board
Shetland Islands	New Community Safety Board which reports to Shetland Islands Council
South Ayrshire	Quarterly meetings of the Full Council
South Lanarkshire	New Safer South Lanarkshire Board. Made up of 5 elected members and representatives from the partner agencies from the old Community Safety Partnerships
Stirling	Public Safety Committee under Community Safety and Regeneration Committee. 7 members on sub-committee, one from each Multi Member Ward
West Dunbartonshire	New Scrutiny Committee, linking to new Community Planning Group
West Lothian	Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel