



JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLICING

AGENDA

12th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4)

Thursday 31 October 2013

The Sub-Committee will meet at 1.15 pm in Committee Room 6.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Sub-Committee will decide whether to take item 3 in private.
2. **Local policing:** The Sub-Committee will take evidence from—

Sir Stephen House, Chief Constable, and Superintendent Craig Naylor,
Police Scotland;

George Graham QPM, HM Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland.
3. **Work programme:** The Sub-Committee will consider its work programme.

Joanne Clinton
Clerk to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 01313485220
Email: Joanne.Clinton@scottish.parliament.uk

The papers for this meeting are as follows—

Agenda item 2

Paper by the clerk

JSP/S4/13/12/1

Private paper

JSP/S4/13/12/2 (P)

Agenda item 3

Private paper

JSP/S4/13/12/3 (P)

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

12th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday, 31 October 2013

Local policing

Note by the Clerk

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 3 October 2013, the Sub-Committee agreed to hold an evidence session on local policing, including the current review of public counter service provision.

Committee interest in local policing

Previous consideration

2. One of the main policy objectives behind police reform was to strengthen the connection between services and communities by creating a new formal relationship with each of the 32 local authorities and integrating with community planning partnerships¹.

3. The Sub-Committee identified local policing as an early area of interest at its first meeting and agreed to hold an initial evidence session on the transition to the new local arrangements on 18 April 2013 with DCC Rose Fitzpatrick, who has responsibility for local policing.

4. During evidence, the Sub-Committee examined how scrutiny of local policing and the approval of local police plans were being carried out across local authorities in the early weeks of reform. A transcript from that meeting, which includes details of the four scrutiny models currently in operation across local authorities, can be found at the following link:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8416&mode=pdf>

5. Following this session, the Sub-Committee received supplementary written evidence on how local commanders engage with local democratic structures. This has been reproduced as Annexe A to this note.

6. The Sub-Committee agreed to return to the issue of local policing later in the year once the new arrangements had time to bed in.

Recent developments

Public counter services review

7. In June 2013, Police Scotland wrote to the Sub-Committee outlining plans to review traffic warden provision and public counter services. The letter stated that—

“The Chief Constable has [also] commissioned a review of the level of public service that occurs at police stations and to determine the most efficient opening times to the public and the services provided.”

¹ Scottish Government, (2012) Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill Policy Memorandum, page 1

8. The letter can be read in full at the following link:

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s4_JusticeSubCommitteeonPolicing/General%20Documents/20130627_Traffic_Warden_and_Public_Counter_Review.pdf

9. Police Scotland launched a consultation on initial proposals arising from the review of public counters at the beginning of October which will run until 31 October 2013.

10. Further information on the review including proposals for each Division across Scotland can be found at the following link:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/public-counters-traffic-wardens-review/public-counters/>

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland thematic report

11. In May 2013, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland (HMICS) published a thematic inspection of the development of local police plans and arrangements for local scrutiny and engagement. This review provided an early overview of emerging arrangements in relation to local policing issues and its main recommendation was that a more comprehensive review will be required in early 2014 in order to properly assess how local scrutiny and engagement structures are working in practice.

12. A copy of the full thematic inspection report can be found at the following link:

<http://www.hmics.org/sites/default/files/publications/Thematic%20inspection%20of%20the%20development%20of%20local%20police%20plans%20and%20local%20fire%20and%20rescue%20plans%20-%20Final%20Report%20May%202013.pdf>

Next steps

13. The Sub-Committee will take evidence at its meeting on 31 October 2013 from the Chief Constable and HMICS.

ANNEXE A**Correspondence from DCC Rose Fitzpatrick to the Convener in relation to arrangements for engaging with local democratic structures**

Thank you for your letter of 20 May 2013 requesting further information about how Divisional Commanders engage with the local democratic structures in their area.

For ease of reference, please find attached a table which illustrates this by Division; I trust you will see that, without exception, Local Commanders take personal ownership of their responsibility to engage with their particular scrutiny committee(s) which allows for a highly effective and accountable working relationship.

I trust this is helpful to you.

Rose Fitzpatrick QPM
Deputy Chief Constable (Local policing)
3 June 2013

DIVISION	ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENGAGEMENT
Aberdeen City	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee which take place every 6 weeks.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Divisional Commander is also Vice Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen which also provides a reporting mechanism. A divisional Superintendent also attends each meeting of Aberdeen City Community Safety Partnership.</p>
Aberdeenshire & Moray	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee and is accompanied on each occasion by the Superintendent (Operations), Superintendent (Support) and Chief Inspector (Local Accountability)</p> <p>The Divisional Commander submits a report in advance providing information on performance, operational updates, resources and establishment.</p>
Tayside	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority area within the division. The Commander is supported at the meetings by the respective Chief Inspector (Support) and Area Commander.</p>
Highland & Islands	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority area within the division.</p> <p>If attendance by the Divisional Commander is not possible due to date clashes between the four authorities or logistical</p>

	difficulties owing to restricted transport between outlying areas, the Commander will be represented by a Superintendent or Area Commander.
Forth Valley	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority area within the division and will be accompanied by the respective Area Commander.</p> <p>Both officers also attend the agenda setting meetings to ensure complete preparedness to provide the required information at the full meeting.</p>
Edinburgh City	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee and will ask selected members of staff to also attend dependent on the key business on the agenda.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander also attends the agenda setting meeting and meets regularly outwith the meeting cycle with the Convenor/Chair to provide interim updates as required.</p>
Lothian and the Scottish Borders	The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority area accompanied by the respective Area Commander.
Greater Glasgow	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committees.</p> <p>In East Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire, the Divisional Commander is accompanied by the respective Area Commander.</p>
Fife	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee which take place every 6 weeks.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander also attends the agenda setting meeting with the Convenor where specific reports are requested.</p> <p>A presentation is provided by the Police at each meeting on a topical policing matter.</p>
Ayrshire	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority area accompanied by the respective Area Commander.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander also brings each of the local Superintendents, on a rotating basis, to both the Scrutiny and full Council meetings to ensure awareness of local need, demand and expectation.</p>

	Written performance updates are also provided to the Scrutiny committees outwith the formal meeting cycle.
Lanarkshire	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority area which are each held on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Divisional Commander also holds a surgery for elected members in both authority areas on a weekly basis to discuss local policing matters and has meetings scheduled quarterly with the Local Authority Chief Executives to specifically discuss the Local Policing Plan.</p>
Argyll & West Dunbartonshire	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority area.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander will be represented at the meetings by a Superintendent by exception only.</p>
Renfrewshire & Inverclyde	The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority area.
Dumfries & Galloway	<p>The Divisional Commander personally attends the meetings of the Local Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander will also attend full Council meetings when there are issues being discussed which will impact on policing. The relevant Area Commander will attend Multi Member Ward Committee meetings.</p>