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# **REPORT ON THE RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICE PRIORITIES FOR SCOTLAND**

**Report by Chief Executive**

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## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**16 August 2016**

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### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a response to the Scottish Government's Consultation on the Draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland.**
- 1.2 The Scottish Government is reviewing the Strategic Police Priorities which will set the direction for Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority for the next three to five years. The consultation document shown in Appendix 1 sets out three questions based on the six broad strategic priorities that have been identified. A short consultation period has been given on this with a deadline for responses of the 16 August 2016.
- 1.3 The proposed Council response is supportive of these Priorities but indicates that there needs to be more recognition of the need to ensure that: appropriate resources are allocated to ensure effective and responsive frontline and community policing in rural areas; the requirements of rural areas are given full consideration in policing; local police are more empowered; greater consideration is given to cross-borders policing matters; and there is more close working with local authorities.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive Committee approves the response as set out in Appendix 2 to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Scottish Government is reviewing the Strategic Police Priorities which is a requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. These Priorities will set the direction for Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. The review of the Strategic Police Priorities provides an opportunity to comment on the key outcomes of policing which will set out the strategic national policy context and framework for the future development of the local priorities for the Scottish Borders.
- 3.2 The Review consultation paper is shown in Appendix 1. A short consultation period has been given on this with a deadline of responses of the 16 August 2016.
- 3.3 The Draft Strategic Police Priorities are based on six broad themes:
- Localism
  - Prevention
  - Response
  - Collaborative working
  - Accountability
  - Adaptability
- 3.4 These priorities will inform the development of the Scottish Police Authority Police Plan, Police Scotland's Annual Police Plan and Police Scotland's Local Police Plans. These priorities once agreed would be in place for the next 3-5 years.

### **4 RESPONSE BY SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

- 4.1 In discussions with both the Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland the Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board has consistently emphasised the themes that now feature in the strategic Police priorities, particularly localism, prevention and collaborative working. The response set out in Appendix 2 therefore gives support to these but indicates that the detail of the implementation of these is paramount. The implementation of the Police Priorities needs to be accompanied with the requirement that appropriate resources are allocated to allow effective and responsive frontline and community policing within each Police Division in Scotland, and to ensure that rural areas do not lose out to more urban areas. Also there needs to be: more recognition of the policing needs of rural communities; the importance of empowering local police; cross-border policing issues; and the important contribution of local authorities and local elected members to supporting local policing.

### **5 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 **Financial**  
There are no financial implications associated with this consultation response.
- 5.2 **Risk and Mitigations**  
Policing is an important issue for the Scottish Borders and it is important that the Council responds to this consultation paper.
- 5.3 **Equalities**  
Equalities issues are being addressed in the consultation paper.

**5.4 Acting Sustainably**

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this consultation response.

**5.5 Carbon Management**

There are no effects on carbon emissions.

**5.6 Rural Proofing**

It has been indicated in the response that the needs of rural areas should be taken account of in the implementation of the Strategic Police priorities.

**5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to be made.

**6 CONSULTATION**

6.1 Members of the Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board, the Council’s Corporate Management Team, Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted on this report.

**Approved by**

**Tracey Logan  
Chief Executive**

**Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

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**Background Papers:** Letter from the Scottish Government (see Appendix 1)

**Previous Minute Reference:** None

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Douglas Scott can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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