
REPORT ON THE RESPONSE TO POLICE SCOTLAND AND THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY'S CONSULTATION PAPER ENTITLED 'OUR 10 YEAR STRATEGY FOR POLICING IN SCOTLAND'

Report by Chief Executive

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

25 May 2017

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a response to Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority Consultation Paper on 'Our 10 Year Strategy for Policing in Scotland'.**
- 1.2 Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority have developed jointly and collaboratively a proposed ten-year strategy to ensure that Scottish policing remains fit for the future. Within the plan it is indicated that the police service needs to adapt and transform as the pace of change across society accelerates. The deadline for the consultation period is the 29 May 2017.
- 1.3 The key messages are that this is a long term strategy that ensures that the police service: shows continued improvement; is relevant to the issues that it needs to address; maintains public consent; enhances its legitimacy; and shows financial stability. The need to operate within available funding is a particular requirement. Mention is also made of the strategy improving the outcomes for people, communities and places; and developing a diverse workforce with the right balance of experience, skills, professionalism and capabilities.
- 1.4 The proposed Council response is supportive of the Strategy for Policing in Scotland. However issues are raised about how the national Strategy relates to policing in rural areas and small towns, local police plans, community approaches, and cross borders issues; and the need for more explanation about the role expected by partners to support the outcomes envisaged in the national Strategy particularly in relation to prevention and early intervention and how this should be resourced.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the response as set out in Appendix 1 to Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority Consultation Paper on 'Our 10 Year Strategy for Policing in Scotland'.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority have set out a proposed 10 year strategy for Policing in Scotland. The deadline for the consultation period has been extended until the 29May 2017 to take account of the local government elections. The consultation paper is accompanied with a response template that has a series of questions.
https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2026/user_uploads/policing-2026-strategy-for-consultation.pdf
- 3.2 The Plan indicates that society is changing and the nature and approach to policing needs to adapt and transform in relation to these changes. This is illustrated by the significant reductions in recorded crime in public spaces in the last decade, particularly violent crime and crimes associated with anti-social behaviour. This is also the case in the Scottish Borders. The rise and use of the internet and widespread use of technology has led to new ways of offending with more online crime.
- 3.3 The Strategy reiterates the main purpose of policing is to improve the safety and well-being of persons, localities and communities in Scotland. To achieve effective outcomes for its service the Strategy emphasises the importance of working closely with individuals and communities to understand their needs; maximise talents and resources; support self-reliance; and build resilience. There is a need to place a premium on prioritising preventative measures to reduce demand and decrease inequalities.
- 3.4 There is recognition in the Strategy about the importance of ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of the police service in the context of reducing budgets and changing threats. The importance of the police service working with other partners, particularly local authorities is emphasised in achieving its outcomes.
- 3.5 The Strategy builds on the Scottish Government's policing priorities published in October 2016 which focuses on seven themes and which are relevant in relation to the above context. These priorities are:
- Localism
 - Inclusion
 - Prevention
 - Response
 - Collaborative working
 - Accountability
 - Adaptability
- 3.6 In developing the Strategy the police service is looking to ensure that it shows continued improvement, is relevant to the issues that it needs to address, maintains public consent, enhances its legitimacy and shows financial stability. In particular it aims to:
- Improve the impact of the police service and achieve better outcomes for individuals and communities.
 - Ensure clearer assessments of threats, risk and harm in its service

delivery.

- Focus on prevention and address the enduring problems facing communities.
- Demonstrate leadership, knowledge and insight and improve and develop new services.
- Develop innovation in its services.
- Reflect values of fairness, integrity and respect and a 'rights based' approach to policing.

3.7 The proposed Plan indicates that this will be achieved by:

- Transforming the way people can contact the police and how the enquiries are resolved.
- Modernising the police operating model.
- Strengthening Partnership working.
- Recognising and investing in the development and well-being of the workforce.
- Strengthening the diversity of the workforce and changing the mix of skills and experience to address evolving needs.
- Introducing technology to enable workforce efficiency and operational effectiveness.
- Scaling and changing the police's cyber capacity to respond to emerging cyber related crimes and continue to invest in forensic science capabilities.
- Transforming corporate services.

4 RESPONSE BY SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

4.1 The proposed response is shown in Appendix 1. The response is supportive of the police transformation process envisaged in the plan. However a number of issues are raised in relation to:

- The links between the national strategy and local police plans and the locality approach developed by Police Scotland.
- The different policing needs in rural areas such as the Scottish Borders.
- The link between the aspirations of the national strategy and the future policing arrangements in neighbouring areas in England as this will be important in tackling cross border crime issues.
- Partnership working with its emphasis on prevention and early intervention. No consideration is given in the Strategy about how partners, particularly local authorities will find the resources to support preventative working. Given the reality of public expenditure constraints it is clear that there needs to be work undertaken on how the benefits achieved from prevention and early intervention for individuals and communities can be better shared between the police and partners.
- The need to give more detail on how financial stability and sustainability for the police service will be achieved going forward, particularly in relation to the funding gap in future years that was identified in Audit Scotland's '2015/16 Audit of Scottish Policing

Activity' published in December 2016.

- Technology and ensuring that it is not substituted too much for face to face or community contacts. Such contacts are vital for maintaining public confidence and intelligence.

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 The Council's Corporate Management Team, the 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 and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Tracey Logan
Chief Executive

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Douglas Scott	Senior Policy Adviser tel: 01835 825155

Background Papers:

https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2026/user_uploads/policing-2026-strategy-for-consultation.pdf

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.

Contact us at: Douglas Scott dscott@scotborders.gov.uk tel: 01835 825155