

**Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board
Scottish Borders Council Headquarters, Newtown St. Boswells
09:30 - 11:30 Friday 30 August, 2019**

Discussion paper – Revised Strategic Police Priorities (SPPs)

Background

1. The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 enables Scottish Ministers to set Strategic Police Priorities (SPPs) relating to the policing of Scotland, or the carrying out of the Scottish Police Authority's (SPA) functions.
2. The revised SPPs set out below apply to **both** of these areas, with the SPA having a role in delivering its own corporate and specialist functions (the Forensic Service and Independent Custody Visiting) and providing support for and scrutiny of Police Scotland.
3. Within the 2018-19 Programme for Government, we committed to revising the existing set of Strategic Police Priorities, in partnership with others. The decision to review the SPPs was based on a number of considerations; acknowledgment of the significant progress and developments over the last three years in operational delivery, progress towards the transformation agenda through Policing 2026, considerable structural and governance change within both the SPA and Police Scotland and a need to consider and reflect on the changing needs of the public and the implications of this for Policing in Scotland.

Engagement

4. To develop the draft SPPs, we have discussed our thinking with a range of organisations who have an interest in the Police Service. This has included:
 - The Scottish Police Authority
 - Police Scotland
 - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)
 - The Police Investigation and Review Commissioner
 - CoSLA
 - Representatives from the Scottish Police Federation and the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents.

5. We also had wider discussions with Officials across the Scottish Government with an interest in Policing.
6. A 12-week public consultation was launched on **15 July**, which gives us an opportunity to undertake wider discussions on the draft SPPs. Our focus during this consultation period will be to ensure that local views are heard, including local communities, individuals, local authorities, third sector organisations and local police officers and staff.

Hierarchy of Police Priorities and Planning

7. The legislation advocates clear alignment between the different levels of planning and priority setting, to ensure that all levels of officer and staff understand the contribution they are making to high level objectives and outcomes. This should be regarded as a 'golden thread' which runs between the following Strategic Frameworks:
 - The Purpose of Policing is set out within the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, and is not subject to review:
 - To improve the safety and well-being of persons, localities and communities in Scotland
 - Strategic Police Priorities – Scottish Ministers set the strategic direction for the SPA and the Policing of Scotland. The Act does not provide a set timescale within which the SPPs should be reviewed.
 - Strategic Police Plan – The SPA sets the main objectives for the SPA and the policing of Scotland and describes how these objectives are expected to be achieved. It must be reviewed at least once every 3 years and, in particular, where the Strategic Police Priorities have been significantly revised.
 - Annual Police Plan – The Chief Constable sets the key activities to be delivered by Police Scotland in support of achieving the Strategic Police Plan objectives during that yearly period.
8. The SPPs flow from National Outcomes and Justice Priorities, and influence the Strategic Police Plan. The Annual Police Plan informs the content and focus of Local Police Plans and Outcomes.
9. The SPPs are purposefully strategic and concise to enable the SPA and Police Scotland to further define the outcomes, objectives and actions which flow from this high-level direction.

Revised SPPs

The proposed **SPPs** are as follows:

Crime and Security – prioritises prevention, investigation, equality and human rights to support positive criminal justice outcomes, respond to current and emerging threats and maintain public order.

Confidence – continues to inspire public trust by being ethical, open and transparent, evidencing performance against outcomes, and building on a positive reputation at a local, national and international level.

Partnerships – works proactively with partners to maintain safe communities and support improved outcomes for, increasing resilience and addressing vulnerability.

Sustainability – adapts to present and plans for future social and economic circumstances, considering the environmental impact of policing and its operations.

People – values, supports, engages and empowers a diverse workforce to lead and deliver high quality services.

Evidence – uses evidence to develop services and addresses current and emerging demands, ensuring that the right capacity and skills are in place to deliver high performing and innovative services.

Lifespan of the SPPs

10. As highlighted above, the Act does not provide a set timescale within which the SPPs should be reviewed. We are proposing that the draft SPPs, will be in place for a 6 year period, a shift away from the 3-year cycle for setting the SPPs to date. This will mean they would be in place for the refresh of the 3 year Strategic Plan in 2020, but also for the next revision in 2023. We believe this will provide an advantage of allowing the revised SPPs to set a longer-term strategic direction within the police planning framework, and to achieve the ‘golden thread’. It will also provide a longer time period to assess progress in delivering the priorities and build a clear evidence base, to assist with future reviews of the SPPs.

Points for discussion

11. We would like to seek your views and input on the draft SPPs as they stand. The following questions are set out in the consultation document, and are intended to initiate discussion. However, we are happy to discuss anything you consider relevant and valid.
 - To what extent do the revised Strategic Police Priorities meet your expectation for what the Scottish Police Authority and the Police Service should focus on in the future?
 - Do the revised Strategic Police Priorities reflect your needs?
 - Do the revised Strategic Police Priorities reflect the needs of your community?
 - Do you agree that the revised Strategic Police Priorities should be in place for a period of 6 years?
 - How do you think the progress towards delivering the Strategic Police Priorities should be measured?

- Do you have any comments to make on our partial equalities impact assessment?

Next Steps

12. The public consultation will run for a period of 12-weeks, closing on Friday 4 October.
13. During this period, officials in the Scottish Government will conduct a number of meetings and engagement events with a range of stakeholders. Individuals and organisations can also provide written responses to the consultation through citizen space and we will have a social media presence, in collaboration with partners, throughout the consultation exercise.
14. We will consider the feedback and insight from today's meeting as part of the wider analysis of responses received during the consultation period. The draft SPPs will be revised to reflect the feedback received, when the consultation closes.
15. We have a duty to lay a copy of the Strategic Police Priorities before the Scottish Parliament. This is currently planned for November this year.