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## **POLICE COMMUNITY ACTION TEAMS GOVERNANCE**

**Report by Executive Director, Finance & Regulatory**

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### **AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**10 December 2020**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides further details of the potential amended governance arrangements for the Police Community Action Teams.**
- 1.2 At its meeting held on 22 October 2020, the Audit & Scrutiny Committee requested a further report be brought back with details on enhancing transparency and performance monitoring of the Police CATs to the Executive Committee and investigating a mechanism for improving communications between the Oversight Group and the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board.
- 1.3 As previously reported, the performance monitoring of the CATs could be moved from the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group and be reported through the Executive Committee on a quarterly basis. This would allow a more public view of the work of the CATs. Reports are published committee papers and available on the Council website.
- 1.4 A workshop could be held for members of the Police, Fire & Rescue, and Safer Communities Board to explain the process used to decide on the work of the CATs, including when issues are passed to Police Scotland. This would allow members of that Board to gain an insight into the governance of the CATs. It may also be helpful to consider whether the CAT Oversight Group and the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board should meet informally, in private, once per year to discuss the work of the CATS and raise any concerns.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Committee:-**
  - (a) NOTES that those involved in the current CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group consider it to be working effectively, therefore it remains the officer view that no changes are required to the governance arrangements.**

- (b) CONSIDERS, however, whether to make any recommendations to Council on the current Police Community Action Teams governance arrangements, potentially:**
- (i) that the tasking of the Police Community Action Teams remains with the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group;**
  - (ii) that the performance monitoring of the Police Community Action Teams be moved from the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group to the Executive Committee, with reporting on a quarterly basis; and**
  - (iii) the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board and the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group meet informally, in private, on an annual basis, to discuss the work of the Police Community Action Teams.**
- (c) AGREES to RECOMMEND that a workshop be held for members of the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board to explain the process of tasking for the Police Community Action Teams.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 22 October 2020, the Audit and Scrutiny Committee considered a report regarding the possibility of the Policy Community Action Team Officer/Member Strategic Oversight Group being included in the Scheme of Administration as a formal committee of Council. Officers explained that due to the intelligence information being provided by Police Scotland to the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group it was not possible in its current form for the Strategic Oversight Group to be included in the Scheme of Administration.
- 3.2 While the recommendation in that report was to take no further action, an option was given to change the governance structure to allow performance management of the CATs to be carried out through the Executive Committee, with operational tasking of the CATs carried out by a new Member/Officer Reference Group. Following discussion at the meeting, the Committee requested a further report be brought back with details on enhancing transparency and performance monitoring to the Executive Committee and investigating a mechanism for improving communications between the Oversight Group and the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board. A workshop could also be considered if required.

### **4 CAT GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1 Should Members wish to suggest changes to the governance arrangements currently in place for the Police CATs, consideration will need to be given to how best this can be achieved. As previously reported, the performance monitoring of the CATs could be moved from the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group and be reported through the Executive Committee on a quarterly basis. This would allow a more public view of the work of the CATs. Reports are published committee papers and available on the Council website.
- 4.2 The current Member/Officer Oversight Group would continue to work under its current rules to oversee the tasking of the CATs. This would ensure that police intelligence information was restricted to that Group. As currently happens, all Elected Members would still be able to feed in any issues within their own Wards to the CATs by raising these with members of the Oversight Group, the Safer Communities & Community Justice Manager, or the CAT Sergeants.
- 4.2 A workshop could be held for members of the Police, Fire & Rescue, and Safer Communities Board to explain the process used to decide on the work of the CATs, including when issues are passed to Police Scotland. This would allow members of that Board to gain an insight into the governance of the CATs. It may also be helpful to consider whether the CAT Oversight Group and the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board should meet informally, in private, once per year to discuss the work of the CATS.
- 4.3 As previously advised, it is the view of all that are involved in the process that the current arrangements with the Strategic Oversight Group seem to be working well and is successful.

## 5 IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

### 5.2 Risk and Mitigations

There is a risk that while some Members may feel excluded from information being provided to the current Police CATs Strategic Oversight Group, there are currently 9 Elected Members on the Group who can give assurance to the work of the CATs. Performance statistics are also provided each quarter to the Executive Committee.

### 5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

No IIA has been carried out as it is considered there will be no unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation, or any impact on equality of opportunity for those who do or do not share a characteristic of age, disability, gender re-assignment, trans/transgender identity, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race groups, religion or belief, sex-gender identity, and sexual orientation.

### 5.4 Acting Sustainably

There will be no economic, social or environmental effects arising from the recommendations in this report.

### 5.5 Carbon Management

There are no effects on the Council's carbon emissions arising from the recommendations in this report.

### 5.6 Rural Proofing

There is no impact on those living in rural areas arising from the recommendations in this report.

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

Any changes which are required to the Scheme of Administration will require Council approval.

## 6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR & Communications, and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report. Police Scotland were also consulted.

**Approved by**

**David Robertson**

**Executive Director, Finance & Regulatory**

**Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

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**Background Papers:** Scheme of Administration

**Previous Minute Reference:** Audit & Scrutiny Committee, 22 October 2020

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

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