

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL

Minutes of meeting held remotely
on 21 April 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present: Councillors Hugh Hunter (Chair), Ian Cavana, Chris Cullen, Ian Davis and Arthur Spurling.
- Apology: Councillor Douglas Campbell
- Attending: D. Gillies, Director – Place, K. Anderson, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning, W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; D. Frew, Police Scotland – Superintendent, B. Anderson, Police Scotland – Chief Inspector and Area Commander, C. Buchanan, Committee Services Officer.

Opening Remarks.

The Chair took the sederunt and confirmed that today's meeting was not open to the press and public, which was permissible under the COVID-19 legislation. He also confirmed to Members the procedures to conduct this meeting.

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of 18 November 2020 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Action Log and Work Programme.

There was submitted an Action Log and Work Programme ([issued](#)) for this Panel.

The Director – Place gave a verbal update on the Action Log and, with regard to Item 7, the information pertaining to ARA Cycle Paths, advised that discussions were ongoing and positive progress was being made in relation to the potential repairs of cycle paths and agreed to provide Members with an update at the next meeting.

With regard to the work programme it was noted that there was one outstanding briefing note in relation to 'lessons learned regarding a journey to Finland' and that all Petitions were up to date. The Chair enquired if, The Director – Place could seek assurance from the Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities that the outstanding briefing note would be provided and the Director – Place stated that he would seek this assurance from the Service Lead.

The Director – Place highlighted that he was awaiting feedback from Scottish Fire and Rescue around the Deliberate Fire Reduction Plan and when this would be available to the Panel.

The Panel

Decided: to note the action log and work programme including the verbal update provided by the Director – Place.

5. **Local Police Plan 2021-23: Police Scotland**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6 April 2021 by the Assistant Director – People inviting members of the Panel to consider the revised draft Local Police Plan 2021-23 ([Appendix 1](#)) and provide feedback on the local priorities identified in the document. The Chair welcomed the Police Chief Inspector and Area Commander and the Police Superintendent to the Panel meeting.

The Police Superintendent and Police Chief Inspector, addressed the Panel regarding the current National priorities in line with Scotland's policing cycle as well as the current local policing priorities for Panel feedback.

With regard to 2021-23, the Police Superintendent highlighted that there were 14 very high/high priorities that had been identified by Police Scotland and outlined that a local analyst of the Police Force had further examined and narrowed down the local priorities on Page 9 of Appendix 1.

Various questions were asked by Members of the Panel and responses provided as follows:-

- (1) A Member of the Panel highlighted their concern regarding drug supply and enquired what steps Police were taking to expose drug dealers and suppliers of drugs. The Police Superintendent advised that Police relied on community intelligence and that any information raised by community members allowed Police to look more closely at the drug supply chain within South Ayrshire as well as serious organised crime;
- (2) A Panel Member commented that he had been made aware of the increase in drug sales via Social Media platforms and in particular, Snapchat. The Police Superintendent outlined that Police were aware of increasing online drug trades and advised that the Police Force were continually trying to tackle the current national Cyber issues mentioned, he also added that drug dealers and suppliers had been identified as using postal services to distribute drugs which was also concerning;
- (3) In respect of the Partnership Arrangement between Police and The Council, it was commented that there could be some confusion around who leads on anti-social behaviour reports, the Council or Police. A Panel Member enquired if in relation to partnership working, the initial point of contact regarding an anti-social behaviour complaint could take ownership of this. The Police Chief Inspector and Area Commander highlighted that the primary function of Police was the attendance at blue light response incidents and that in relation to 'low-level crime', advice was always recorded and often complainants were encouraged to contact the Council. He further advised that there were formal and informal working processes in place between the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Community

Safety, Housing Services and the Council to provide information sharing where appropriate;

- (4) A Panel Member asked if there had been any trends highlighted in relation to reports of domestic abuse during periods of lockdown due to COVID-19, the Police Superintendent outlined that reports of domestic abuse had been closely monitored during lockdown periods and that victims of domestic abuse had continued to reach out to Police and other services such as Woman's Aid during this time;
- (5) A Member raised a question relating to acquisitive crime, in particular fraud and the help and advice being given to elderly individuals in relation to cold calls. The Police Superintendent advised that Police had partnered with Crime Stoppers to develop an A5 leaflet to be added to all medication prescription bags particularly targeted at the elderly who do not have access to social media and advice circulated via this. He further advised that a date had not yet been agreed in relation to the issue of the A5 leaflet distribution but that he would provide this information once he had been made aware of this;
- (6) A number of Panel Members gave positive feedback in relation to school campus Police Officers and praised the work being carried out within schools. A question was raised in relation to emerging crime themes related to children and young people and whether there was a way to raise and report on risks to be aware of. The Police Superintendent highlighted that if any risks or threats were reported in relation to children and young people, the campus Police Officers were always the first point of contact;
- (7) A Panel Member enquired in relation to third sector agencies and charities working with vulnerable individuals and Police involvement and relationships with these agencies. The Police Superintendent advised that Police were networking with third sector agencies and had been working closely with the Drug and Alcohol Partnership and that Ayrshire would also be part of a pilot for suicide prevention. He further advised that Police presence at support sessions could sometimes be seen as unhelpful as vulnerable individuals may question Police motive at these sessions; and
- (8) Relating to the Police priorities discussed, a Member asked how Police intended to measure success over the next 6 months and the Police Superintendent outlined that Police would look at management information to show progress against the outcomes and include case studies.

The Chair thanked the Police Superintendent and the Police Chief Inspector and Area Commander for the detailed and comprehensive report and the Panel, having scrutinised the draft Local Police Plan 2021-23 report by Police Scotland in South Ayrshire,

Decided: to note the contents of the revised draft Local Police Plan 2021-23 Report.

The meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.