

## **Justice Sub-Committee on Policing**

### **Designation of local commanders**

#### **Written submission from Glasgow City Council**

I have been asked to respond to the letter you sent to our Chief Executive Annemarie O'Donnell, dated 17th November in relation to how the designation of local commanders is working in practice.

While arrangements for scrutiny differ across the country, in Glasgow we opted for a partnership approach. The Safe Glasgow Group is a citywide group set up to scrutinise the new arrangements for Police and Fire in Scotland and sits within our Community Planning Structure. The group receive regular updates to both the Glasgow City Local Policing Plan 2014-2017 and the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Glasgow City 2014-2017. Both plans set out the priorities and objectives for Police Scotland and SFRS within Glasgow and it is against these plans that the Safe Glasgow Group scrutinises performance and outcomes.

Chief Superintendent Brian McNulty regular attends the group to supply quarterly updates and speak to any additional policing reports submitted at the request of the group.

Police Scotland have reported a number of highlights to the Safe Group in the past year which have had positive impacts on people and communities as well as contributing to CPP priorities including:

- Reducing anti-social behaviour around schools through campus officers working in partnership with teachers and pupils with notable impacts in the Knightswood and Drumchapel communities;
- Working with Council licensing staff to arrange visits to off-sales to remind premises of their responsibilities and also to highlight the impact of under-age alcohol consumption and anti-social behaviour. Test purchasing operations were carried out on premises across the city with no reports of illegal sales; and
- Working with partners to launch the Safe-zone at St George's Tron Church in Nelson Mandela Place over the festive period 2015, which provided a safe haven and support for those suffering from alcohol or substance intoxication or who had become vulnerable through separation.

Another significant area of work undertaken in partnership with the Council and Police was a Joint Assessment of Community Policing. The Community Policing Initiative already collected and reported on outcomes, however, it was agreed at the GCC Executive Committee that an assessment of the initiative including the added value from the additional 100 Community Police Officers was appropriate. The assessment assisted Police Scotland to identify what works well and areas for improvement that would benefit our communities, Greater Glasgow Division and Police Scotland as a whole.

Since the conclusion of this assessment, work has been on-going within the Police to restructure the local policing model to enable them to provide a more flexible, resilient and responsive service. The restructure sees the Police move to larger 'Local Policing Teams' based in and operating from offices within sub divisional areas which align with council wards, and who will be the first response to calls from the public. These teams will be supported by smaller 'Local Problem Solving Teams' who will be dedicated to working with Community Safety Glasgow and other partner agencies to solve local issues. The intention is for this new model to provide a flexible, problem solving approach across the City of Glasgow.

In August, the Police hosted a Local Leadership Forum at Hampden Stadium where their entire senior management team met with senior partners from across the city. The event provided an opportunity to share ideas and discuss how policing in the future may look under four key pillars: Culture and Performance; Localism and Serving Diverse Communities; Protecting the Public; and Creating a Sustainable Operating Model. This event was followed up by a number of local forums held by Area Commanders where further partners including community councils and housing associations discussed the four pillars at a local sub divisional level. These discussions will help inform how policing develops in the coming years.

Continued partnership working is necessary to assist with the implementation of shared aims and objectives and informs better policy development. Since the inception of the Safe Glasgow Group, the relationship between the Local Police Commander and the group has grown from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely

Jim Gray  
Head of Democratic Services  
Processions Officer