

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Designation of local commanders

Written submission from Renfrewshire Council

I refer to your letter dated 17 November 2016 regarding the above issue and would like to thank you for the opportunity to highlight the excellent working relationship that is in place between the Police Scotland Divisional Commander and Renfrewshire Council.

The relationship between Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Council works well both at an operational and at a strategic level. The strategic level is particularly strong.

The role of Divisional Commander is held within Renfrewshire and Inverclyde by Chief Superintendent Jim Downie. Commander Downie has an oversight role within the Community Safety Partnership that includes operational elements such as the daily tasking and coordination process, interaction within the Community Safety Partnership Hub and strategic elements including leading key initiatives such as the Building Safer and Greener Communities project and Grey Space Group within Renfrewshire.

This oversight allows Chief Superintendent Downie the opportunity to scrutinise the work being undertaken by Police Scotland and the Community Safety Partnership Hub and focus resources accordingly. It also allows an overview of performance management, ensuring that the partnership is achieving the outcomes required as part of the Renfrewshire Community Plan as well as local and national police priorities.

Commander Downie is also a key Community Planning partner and local stakeholder and plays a full and active role on many different forums including:

- The Public Protection Chief Officer Group (including Chairing this group in my absence);
- Attending the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board to provide a quarterly update on the work and performance of the police service locally and nationally;
- Attending the 2021 Partnership Board;
- Participating on the Champions Board; and
- As a member of the judging panel for the Council's staff recognition awards.

To maintain excellent joint working at a strategic level, I meet with Jim and the Director of Community Resources on a monthly basis to discuss local issues and any planned joint working in the coming months.

One final point I would like to make that may be of relevance to your Committee is that I believe this successful and strong partnership has been achieved because the designation of the local police commander in K Division has been consistent over the past 2 years and the stability in his role, and in addition a number of his key senior officers has contributed significantly to forming strong relationships based on mutual

trust and respect between the Council and Police Scotland K Division.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours faithfully

Sandra Black
Chief Executive