

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Designation of local commanders

Written submission from West Dunbartonshire Council

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with an update on local relationships and impact between L Division Police Commander, West Dunbartonshire Council and Community Planning.

The relationship between the Commander, Chief Superintendent Grant Manders, and senior officers across community planning is very strong and positive. At a Council and CPP level there is robust joint planning, shared accountability and collaboration on a range of areas of work.

In West Dunbartonshire, Police scrutiny takes place through Community Planning, delegated by Council. This ensures a wide range of partners are informed about the local police plan and able to contribute to its development and delivery. This arrangement also increases accountability for delivery of our 'safe and strong' agenda, which is led on behalf of the CPP by Police Scotland. The Divisional Commander actively leads this and is visible and accountable at all relevant strategic forums.

Chief Superintendent Manders also attends or is represented at our Community Alliance. This is an Elected Member led community engagement strategic body. Attendance by our most senior police officers is extremely helpful to advise community representatives on delivery of the local police plan and the regular scrutiny report.

The local SPA board member for the area, Graham Houston, has also been very positive and complimentary about local scrutiny arrangements and the robust discussion taking place at our quarterly meetings on delivery and impact on local residents.

In addition, there are strong operational delivery arrangements in place where Council services and Police Scotland work closely together on a range of key outcomes that collectively provide community safety and public reassurance. This is most evident in the excellent arrangements we have in place around our local engagement and neighbourhood management model – Your Community. Police colleagues at all levels are engaged and supportive of the approach and are delivering jointly with us on our approach to public reassurance.

A further example has been our Syrian Refugee Resettlement programme where over one year into the programme, and the settlement of over 80 Syrians to Clydebank, not a single incident of racism or community tension has been recorded. Close working between police, council officers and community representatives has been the key factor in this success.

The other particularly strong area I would be keen to highlight is the arrangements we have in place for Public Protection in West Dunbartonshire. Through our Public Protection Chief Officer Group (PPCOG) and the supporting committees we see excellent collaboration and partnership delivery to ensure improved outcomes and

services for our most vulnerable residents. The Divisional Commander has a positive and influential role on this body.

I hope this information reassures the Justice Sub-committee of the strength of local joint working and the capacity for change if these partnerships are effective, as is the case here in West Dunbartonshire. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch with Amanda Coulthard, our Corporate & Community Planning Manager in the first instance. Her contact details are at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Joyce White
Chief Executive
West Dunbartonshire Council