

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	24 March 2021
Location	Video-conference
Title of Paper	SPA Chair's Report
Presented By	Martyn Evans
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached:	No

Purpose

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Chair since the February Authority meeting.

Engaging with Local Government

I have made it one of my priorities over the coming year to engage and add value in our working with local government and Police Scrutiny Conveners in particular.

I have held an early discussion with Sally Loudon, Chief Executive of COSLA and attended and addressed COSLA's Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum earlier this month.

I have a further meeting at the end of the March with COSLA's President, Vice President, Community Safety Spokesperson, SOLACE and Police Scotland to discuss opportunities for further engagement in the period ahead.

Ongoing engagement

In addition to my regular engagement with the Cabinet Secretary, HMICS and officials, since last month's Authority meeting, I have met with:

- The British Transport Police Authority (Chair of the Scottish Railways Policing Committee)
- The Scottish Police Federation (SPF)
- The Association of Police Superintendents (ASPS)

I have also attended;

- The Scottish Women's Development Forum Annual Awards Ceremony
- A meeting of the Ministerial Group set up to take forward the recommendations set out in Dame Elish Angiolini's review
- The Scottish Government's Roundtable, established to explore and address issues raised by key stakeholders, including Parliament, around the governance and accountability of policing in Scotland.

I am grateful for the patience of others as I get meetings arranged in the coming weeks and months.

Joint SPA/Police Scotland Webinar - Artificial Intelligence

On 26 February, I chaired the latest joint research and evidence forum with DCC Fiona Taylor. The subject was governing and oversight of Artificial Intelligence in policing and the session was attended by over 80 individuals. I am grateful for the team who organised and facilitated the session and the representatives who took the time to attend and give their input. I expect more webinars on other issues to be held in the period ahead.

Parliamentary Engagement

I appeared before the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing on 15 March 2021. I was invited by the Convenor to set out my vision for policing in Scotland. My approach was that the Authority and Police Scotland have developed a shared purpose, values, vision and 5 outcomes for policing which is now contained in our Joint Strategy for Policing 2020. This is the vision and outcomes we as a Board own and are fully committed to.

I also asked to set out my views on policing. I set out four key 'attitudes' I bring to the Authority as Chair. These have been shaped in part by my career in civil society in Scotland and in part by my two-and half-year 'apprenticeship' for this role as an Authority member. Those four attitudes are:

Localism: Police Scotland is at its best when it combines national standards with local, responsive delivery. Local government is therefore the critical partner and I want to focus on strengthening our engagement with COSLA and local authorities.

Social Justice: Public confidence in policing is high and remains so even over the COVID pandemic. However, public confidence in policing in our areas of multi-deprivation is consistently 15 points lower than the Scottish average. I want the Authority to work with Police Scotland and key civil society partners to explore how we can reduce significantly that gap in public confidence.

Emerging Technology: I am concerned that Police Scotland is at risk of falling behind their peers in the UK and wider in adopting technology and deployments that can keep us all safe and protect our individual and community wellbeing. To change this Police Scotland and the Authority will further improve our conversations with the public about potential for innovation in technology and deployments. This is an issue the Chief Constable and I share which has led to the development of a joint

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Memorandum of Understanding between the Authority and Police Scotland as a start to take this forward.

Evidence: There is no doubt to me that evidence leads to far better and far more sustainable decisions. This spans academic research, professional experiences of police officers and staff, leaders in civil society and local government and the lived experience of citizens. I want the Authority to continue to grow and accelerate the use of evidence in policing.

Appointment of permanent Chief Executive

Lynn Brown as the Authority's was appointed permanent Chief Executive on 2 March following a competitive recruitment process. Lynn has an outstanding public service background, most recently at Director Finance for Glasgow City Council. As well as her strong financial experience she has an excellent track record in senior leadership roles. She has also played a leading role strengthening the Authority's contribution to policing over these last 16-months.

Appointment to committees

We expect six new Board members to join us in a phased approach from 1 April 2021 and look forward to welcoming them in due course.

With three members departing and new members joining the Board, I intend to engage directly with members to seek their advice and guidance with a view to appointing to committees and agreeing Chair's for those vacant posts. Subject to members agreeing, I will communicate the outcome of those discussions once concluded and report publicly to our May meeting.

Board members leaving the Authority on 31 March.

Three outstanding Board members of the Board leave at the end of this month, Matt Smith, Bob Hayes, Elaine Wilkinson. They have each brought a huge amount of professional and personal experience to the challenges of delivering the Authority's complex functions. The diligence, application and commitment of all Board members is exemplified by these colleagues. We have all benefited from their significant insights and as well as their totally collegiate approach. They each wear their deep knowledge lightly and with great good humour. Our very sincere thanks to them on behalf of the Board and my personal thanks to each for their invaluable advice and friendship.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to:

1. Discuss and note the content of this report, and;
2. Endorse the approach to review and appoint members to committees, oversight and external representative groups.