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CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS TO JSCOP 15 MARCH 2021

Thank you, Convenor, and thank you for the invitation to appear before the Sub-Committee.

I took up my post on 1 February 2021.

On the 1 March I appointed Lynn Brown as the Chief Executive and Accountable Officer to the Authority.

Ms Brown is an outstanding public servant. She had financial responsibility for the budget of Glasgow City Council, which is a billion pounds greater than the SPA's £1.3 billion budget for policing. As well as this very substantial financial experience she also has considerable experience in stakeholder and public engagement.

You asked me in your letter of invitation to set out my vision for policing.

I led personally the Authority's restatement of the Strategy for Policing. I worked hard with Police Scotland senior leadership to ensure it was a shared strategy with a shared vision. The strategy was approved by the Board and became the Joint Strategy for Policing. It was approved by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and laid in Parliament. The Authority and Police Scotland now have this shared purpose, values, vision and 5 outcomes for policing. That is the vision and outcomes I and the Board own and are fully committed to.

You also asked about my views on policing.

I will outline four 'attitudes' I bring to the role of Chair of the Authority. 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.

My first attitude is localism. The single Police Service of Scotland is at its best when it combines national standards with local, responsive delivery. Local government is therefore the critical partner. Police Scotland and COSLA have together created a step-change improvement in this partnership over the last year or so. I will focus in the coming year on matching that. As Chair I have already met or will meet before the end of March: The President and Vice President of COSLA: The 32 Scrutiny Convenors through their Forum: Chief Executive of COSLA and the Chair of the SOLAS. I have outlined my engagement plan to the scrutiny convenors and delivering this will be my priority in my first year.

My second is social justice. This has been a personal and long-standing focus throughout my career. I have over the past six weeks I met with key colleagues in civil society to discuss how best to improve social justice in policing. 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 will lead with a key civil society partner and with the already promised full cooperation of Police Scotland in exploring how we can reduce significantly that gap in public confidence. Once we have had conversations with local communities

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around what they think and want, and we all have a thoughtful and agreed plan of action and I will make this a priority in my second year.

My third attitude is around 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 have to improve our conversations with the public about potential for innovation in technology and deployments. I emphasise conversation and not broadcasting. Openness and respectful, active listening are keys to gaining public trust for change.

The Authority also has to improve the velocity, openness and focus of its decision making in this area once the Chief Constable has identified the technology or deployments he considers are required to fulfil his obligations to keep Scotland safe. I and the Chief Constable have initiated the development a joint Memorandum of Understanding between us as a start to achieve these objectives.

My final attitude is evidence. This cuts across all that I have said on localism, social justice and technology. Evidence rarely makes any decision simpler. Indeed, it can often make them more complex. However, evidence does lead to far better and far more sustainable decisions. And by evidence I don't mean academic research alone, I mean professional experience of police officer, leaders in civil society and local government and the lived experience of citizens. I established the Research and Evidence Forum last year to accelerate the use of evidence in policing and to improve listening and learning, I intend to continue to co-chair it with the Deputy Chief Constable Designate.

Thank you.

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