

## HOME SECRETARY'S STRATEGIC POLICING PRIORITIES 2009-10

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the draft Strategic Policing Priorities 2009-10 set by the Home Office and to discuss, in particular, the priorities of relevance to this committee.

### BACKGROUND

2. The Home Secretary sets strategic policing priorities (SPPs) for the police service by the end of November each year to inform police planning. In previous years these have been included in the National Community Safety Plan, although the Home Office does not intend to reissue this in future. Instead of this, a Written Ministerial Statement will be produced at the end of November.

### DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICING PRIORITIES

3. The Home Office is currently consulting on the draft SPPs, although it is not expected that they will vary considerably. The draft SPPs will be of particular interest to the Protective Services Committee. They are:
  - (i) *Increase public confidence in the police, reducing crime in line with PSAs 23 and 25, and effectively contribute to partnership working within the CJS in line with PSA 24.*
  - (ii) *Work jointly with police forces and other agencies, such as SOCA (Serious Organised Crime Agency) and UKBA (UK Border Agency), to ensure that the capability and capacity exists across England and Wales to deliver effective protective services, tackle serious and organised crime and that the necessary improvements are made.*
  - (iii) *Work with and through partners and local communities to tackle terrorism and violent extremism in line with the counter terrorism strategy (CONTEST).*
  - (iv) *Work in all of the above, in line with the Efficiency and Productivity Strategy for the Police Service, to ensure the best use of resources to deliver significant cashable improvements, more effective deployment of the workforce, and to realise benefits of new technology.*
4. The SPPs have great emphasis on 'local' but also the importance of delivering the 'national' agenda. For serious and organised crime, the Home Secretary believes that there is a continuous line stretching between these levels. This means that forces need a continuum of effective policing in response, which relies on effective collaboration and co-ordination amongst relevant partners; and that means, in turn, forces and authorities working outside and across individual force boundaries.
5. The expectation of the Home Secretary is that forces and authorities should work in the interests of regions and the country and to collaborate to achieve improvements. Collaboration takes various forms, from tackling serious and cross border crime to the development of the national Counter Terrorism network in

bringing together intelligence, investigative and operational activity against the terrorist threat. This relies heavily on confidence in policing. The success of a key component of the Counter Terrorism strategy – Prevent – depends, in part, in the confidence local communities have if they fall short.

6. The Home Secretary mentions the emphasis in the Green Paper that greater collaboration across the police service is essential to mitigate risk around confidence in local communities and realise the necessary improvements in protective services. This same emphasis should also apply for specialist crimes.

#### **OPTIONS/RISK**

7. The draft SPPs make it clear that a key component of the Counter Terrorism strategy – Prevent – will depend on the confidence of local communities in their police service. The Police Authority is developing a Joint Thematic Panel to take forward the issues around building confidence in the police service.
8. The Police Authority will need to ensure that the SPPs are adequately covered in the Local Strategic Policing Plan 2009-12. The planning timetable for this was reported to the Performance Committee on 28 October 2008 and the final SPPs will form a key part of discussions at the Priorities Workshop in January 2009.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. The financial implications of the final SPPs will require further discussion at the Priorities and Resources Workshops in January 2009.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9. At present the SPPs are in draft format. The final SPPs will be set out in a Written Ministerial Statement at the end of November 2008, after which police authorities and forces will need to ensure that their local priorities are consistent with these SPPs (Section 6ZB Police Act 1996). This will be undertaken at the Priorities Workshop in January 2009.

#### **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

10. The Prevent strategy clearly has implications particularly for members of our Faith communities. Please see elsewhere on this agenda for further information.

#### **CHILDREN ACT 2004**

11. There are no implications under the Children Act.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

12. The final SPPs will be brought to the attention of Members and the implications and planning requirements will be discussed in greater detail at the Priorities Workshop in January 2009.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

15. It is recommended that Members:

- i) Note the draft Strategic Policing Priorities (SPPs); and
- ii) Ensure that the implications of the final SPPs are taken into account at the Priorities Workshop in January 2009.

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Background Papers: Home Secretary's Strategic Policing Priorities 2009-10:  
Consultation Document (20 October 2008)