

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10am, Tuesday, 22 February 2022

Protect Transport for Edinburgh – Response to Motion

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

The Policy and Sustainability Committee are asked to:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the report; and
- 1.2 Note the availability of the requested data and that Police Scotland's Executive have already committed to increasing Edinburgh Division's resource establishment.

Amanda Hatton

Executive Director for Education and Children's Services

Contact: Jon Ferrer, Head of Quality, Governance and Regulation and Deputy CSWO

E-mail: Jon.Ferrer@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 553 8396

Protect Transport for Edinburgh – Response to Motion

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report signposts the Committee to Police Scotland data outlining Police Officer numbers and recorded crime / incidents for Edinburgh and other Local Policing Divisions, as requested by Councillor Whyte at the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 5 October 2021.
- 2.2 This report also provides relevant contextual information in relation to Police Scotland's demand analysis framework and Strategic Workforce Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 5 October 2021, Councillor Whyte called for a further report:

To detail the relative levels of local Police officers and crimes/incidents in Edinburgh compared to other Scottish Cities and what steps have and could be taken to lobby Police Scotland and the Scottish Government to ensure Edinburgh gets its fair share of policing resources.

4. Main report

Police Scotland advise:

- 4.1 Police Officer / staff numbers for each Local Policing Division are available on Police Scotland's website, accessible via <https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/police-scotland/police-scotland-officer-numbers/> . Similarly, Quarterly Performance and Management Information data reports, which provide recorded crime / incidents for the Force, Council and Divisional areas, are accessible via <https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/> .
- 4.2 Predicated on our shared commitment to ensure public safety, Police Scotland appreciates the continued interest in Edinburgh's Division's resource establishment and numerical demand profile. That said, as consistently stated by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, the number of police officers is not a useful indicator of the quality of policing service. Relatedly, while the needs of

individuals and communities are understandably not analogous in nature, differentials also exist for recorded crimes / incidents i.e. Theft by Housebreakings will not necessarily be comparable in complexity, scope and breadth of investigation, resource commitment etc.

- 4.3 With this in mind, while the data referenced within 4.1 will allow for statistical comparators to be drawn, this exercise will not fully capture the complexities / nuances of policing, associated demand, or indeed, performance.
- 4.4 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 provides that the main purpose of policing is to improve the safety and well-being of persons, localities and communities in Scotland and, understandably, quantifying demand in this context is not straightforward.
- 4.5 Police Scotland benefits from a dedicated Demand and Productivity capability which gathers / develops data sets to understand / interpret current demand, while concurrently tracking and monitoring data for the purpose of predicting future demand, both locally and nationally across the service.
- 4.6 Rather than just measuring crime and incident statistics, this enabling function develops and interprets data sources which contextualise workload, effort, and complexity across the purview of 'asks' made of our officers and staff.
- 4.7 Significantly, this work supports evidence-based strategic and tactical decision making, as exemplified by Police Scotland's inaugural Strategic Workforce Plan, which outlines the officer / staff profile and the skill sets needed to meet the future / evolving / complex policing requirements of our local communities effectively and efficiently.
- 4.8 This 3 year plan has been shaped by locally developed functional plans, with Edinburgh's submission focused on matching future local policing requirements with the needs of our diverse and expanding communities.
- 4.9 The bespoke multi-themed forward facing plan, aligns with the clear and consistent position articulated by the Divisional Commander who, whenever presented with the opportunity to discuss the subject of resource challenges and / or demand, has overtly acknowledged that the 'asks' made of our frontline have risen steadily to the point where more dedicated resources are required.
- 4.10 The Divisional Commander has previously advised the Committee of Police Scotland Executive's commitment to increase Edinburgh Division's establishment, with this uplift taking place incrementally, realised through transfers, realignment of resource released through organisational improvement programmes / change projects, probationer appointments etc.
- 4.11 Moreover, Edinburgh Division will of course continue to benefit from the knowledge, skill and support of specialist departments and Divisions, such as Road Policing, Armed Response, Specialist Crime and Operational Support allied with neighbouring Divisions, as required. As a reciprocal process, Edinburgh Division and, commensurately, our communities undoubtedly receive more support than we provide to assist others i.e., short term abstractions etc.

- 4.12 For the avoidance of doubt, with equitable access to specialist resource being a fundamental principle of Police Scotland's formation, regardless of additionality, Edinburgh Division will maintain the ability to draw on the support of colleagues, whether specialist or otherwise.
- 4.13 To specifically address *what steps, have and could be taken to lobby Police Scotland and the Scottish Government to ensure Edinburgh gets its fair share of policing resources*, as variously outlined, demand profiling is not linear in nature, and while specific timescales are as yet undefined, provision of additional dedicated resource has been confirmed, with work already ongoing to realise this commitment.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 As established custom and practice, the Divisional Commander will continue to provide the Committee with relevant updates.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 There are no specific stakeholder / community impacts associated with this report.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 <https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/police-scotland/police-scotland-officer-numbers/>
- 8.2 <https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>
- 8.3 Strategic Workforce Plan

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None.