

Report to: The Authority
Agenda #: 5
Date: 11 December 2018
Subject: Scotland Project - update
Sponsor: Willie Gallagher
Author: Senior Scotland Project Manager
For: Information and Discussion.

1. Purpose of Paper

- 1.1 This paper updates members on the options appraisal on the devolution of railways policing in Scotland announced by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on 27 August 2018.

2. State of Play

- 2.1 Full integration remains the long-term aim of the Cabinet Secretary. He has also asked that interim options be considered for enhanced accountability of Railway Policing in Scotland to Scottish Parliament.
- 2.2 Scottish Government officials are now undertaking a full policy options appraisal in consultation with key stakeholders.
- 2.3 To gather views and ideas on possible options the Joint Programme Board sponsored a stakeholder event in Edinburgh on 6 November.
- 2.4 The event was attended by the Cabinet Secretary who outlined his policy aims:
- Strategic alignment with recommendations from the Smith Commission;
 - Meaningful accountability and transparency for railway policing in Scotland;
 - Safe and effective management and operational delivery of railway policing in Scotland; and
 - Design on best value principle and provide an appropriate mechanism to ensure value for money.

2.5 The event was well attended and discussion constructive to identify and appraise three broad options in the following areas:

- A non-statutory approach with some form of voluntary written agreement on governance of railways policing;
- Statutory arrangements that rely on the possibilities that all current legislation can provide;
- Fresh legislation which confers accountability and responsibility to the Scottish Parliament on SPA.

2.6 The BTPA Chair, interim Chief Executive and Chief Constable met with the Chief Constable of Police Scotland and Chair of the Scottish Police Authority on 7 November. Both Chief Constables agreed to look further at how BTP and Police Scotland work together and see if there were any additional operational opportunities. Meanwhile the Authorities agreed to work together to understand current governance arrangements and opportunities around enhanced accountability.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Ultimately decisions on policy options are for Scottish Ministers on advice from the Joint Programme Board.
- 3.2 The Scottish Police Authority agreed at their Board meeting last month that any appraisal of options affecting their role and/or governance arrangements needed to be properly considered by future Board meetings to ensure that they are feasible.
- 3.3 The Cabinet Secretary has undertaken to update the Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament before the Christmas Recess. The JPB will consider progress on the re-plan at its next meeting on Thursday 11 December and we will update the Authority accordingly.
- 3.4 Meanwhile, whilst supporting the ongoing aims of devolution, we continue to review our own input to the programme to ensure that it is resourced efficiently and effectively. Our own internal Board, chaired by the Authority Interim Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Constable meets on 18 December to assess which pieces of work can be closed down and agree priorities for outstanding activity.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are asked to note progress and consider what further action is necessary at this stage.