Police Scotland and Local Accountability – Motion dealt with, after division.

11 Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Siddique, moved that:-

"Council notes that April 2023 marked 10 years since the establishment of Police Scotland; notes Police Scotland's successes including a number of high-profile, high-risk events such as COP26 and its work throughout the Covid pandemic; and pays tribute to the dedication and tenacity of our Police Officers in tackling crime.

However, Council regrets: that Scotland now has the lowest number of police officers since 2008, that Officers in Scotland are the only officers in the UK not routinely equipped with body cameras; that figures, published in January, demonstrated a quarter of 101 calls were abandoned; and expresses its deep disappointment that the family of Sheku Bayoh are still without justice 8 years later.

Council believes that the Police is an important institution in our communities; that Police Scotland is not immune to the institutional challenges faced by other police forces in the world; and that the Police can function best when they are held to account by local communities and local people.

Council therefore resolves to write to the Scottish Government to note Councillors' frustrations at the lack of local, operational accountability of policing services due to these services being delivered at a national level; reiterates its belief that policing is a local service; reiterates its belief that local services should be subject to local, democratic accountability; and, therefore, calls on them to review the local accountability of policing as part of the New Deal for Local Government."

Bailie McCabe, seconded by Councillor Aitken, moved as an amendment that:-

(1) after the second paragraph insert the following:

"Council notes that the Scottish Police Authority reported at the COSLA Police Scrutiny Forum on 9 May that the last quarter UK Average Speed of Answer for 999 calls was 12.46 seconds whilst Police Scotland responded in 10.56 seconds, and the 101 non-emergency call response by Police Scotland was an average 4 minutes for 1.8 million calls."

(2) the final paragraph be deleted and replaced with the following:

"Council believes that key elements of policing in Scotland are of a distinctively community-based nature and that these should be visible and accountable to communities through local democratic structures. Council notes that on the establishment of Police Scotland in 2013, a range of different local accountability models were adopted by local authorities across Scotland, and that in the model adopted in Glasgow, Police Scotland is accountable to and scrutinised by elected members and communities through Community Planning structures, including local Area Partnerships, and through the Safe Glasgow committee, which has cross-party membership. Council further notes that the Council's Community Justice and Community

Safety services report regularly to the Council's policy committees and believes that the return of services previously carried out by the Community Safety Glasgow ALEO to direct Council oversight has improved the visibility of these to elected members. Council further notes that all local authorities including Glasgow City Council are directly involved in scrutiny of police and fire services at national level through the COSLA Police Scrutiny Forum.

Council understands that other local authorities operate different local accountability models for both police and fire services, including for example through Local Scrutiny Boards or Committees. Council believes that the 10th anniversary of the establishment of national police and fire services is an appropriate moment to review Glasgow's own arrangements and therefore instructs officers to bring a paper after recess, providing comparisons between different local police and fire scrutiny arrangements across Scotland and their effectiveness, and suggesting potential opportunities to enhance the local accountability of these services in Glasgow."

Councillor Wardrop, seconded by Councillor Bruce, moved as an amendment that:-

(a) at the first paragraph, from "notes Police Scotland's…" to the end of the paragraph be deleted and replaced with the following:

"notes Police Scotland's work on increasing the number of offensive weapons being seized, its commitment to public health throughout the Covid pandemic; and to improving community safety and wellbeing."

(b) after the first paragraph ending "… in tackling crime", the following 2 additional paragraphs be inserted:

"Council welcomes the agreements between COSLA, Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority to work together on four key priority areas including local scrutiny and accountability to strengthen collaboration between Local Government and policing.

Council notes the need to ensure every citizen can easily access an efficient complaints procedure. We support Dame Elish Angiolini's proposal for an improved police complaints system, and welcome a much enhanced role in complaints for the independent Police Investigations and Review Commissioner."

(c) at the second paragraph after "However, Council regrets:", the following be deleted:

"that Scotland now has the lowest number of police officers since 2008, that Officers in Scotland are the only officers in the UK not routinely equipped with body cameras;"

(d) at the second paragraph ending "…justice 8 years later", the following additional paragraph be inserted:

"Council also regrets that misogyny, sexism and "boys club" culture is still rife within all levels of Police Scotland and stands in solidarity with women who have called out this behaviour. Council believes in order to address sexism, Police Scotland need to prioritise policy, process and education gaps and challenge bias wherever it occurs to build confidence with women officers and communities."

(e) at the third paragraph "Council believes: that the Police is an important institution in our communities;" be deleted and replaced with the following:

"Council believes that diversity and equality in the police force is crucial and Police Scotland should be representative of the communities it serves. Council believes that the Police should be seen as part of the community, not an occupying force;"

(f) that the final paragraph beginning "Council therefore resolves…", be deleted and replaced with the following:

"Council is committed to defending the right to protest and opposes any attempts to restrict this right, including use of excessive force against protestors by Police Scotland. Council agrees that better transparency and accountability is needed to gain public confidence on how protests and processions are dealt with locally.

Council therefore resolves to

- Work with COSLA and the Safe Glasgow partnership to review the local accountability and scrutiny of policing. This work will include support for and facilitation of people's rights to protest.

- Create a regular public forum for holding the Council, Police Scotland and other agencies to account for the way protests are handled, with recommendations being brought forward on new ways of reporting to enable greater public and elected member scrutiny of policing.

- Work with Greater Glasgow Police on dealing with sexism and misogyny within all levels of policing."

During the debate Bailie McCabe and Councillor Wardrop, with the approval of their seconders, agreed to combine their amendments to delete all and replace with the following:-

"Council notes that April 2023 marked 10 years since the establishment of Police Scotland; notes Police Scotland's and its work throughout the Covid pandemic; and pays tribute to the dedication and tenacity of our Police Officers in tackling crime. Council further notes Police Scotland's work on increasing the number of offensive weapons being seized~~,~~ and to improving community safety and wellbeing.

Council welcomes the agreements between COSLA, Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority to work together on four key priority areas including local

scrutiny and accountability to strengthen collaboration between Local Government and policing.

Council notes the need to ensure every citizen can easily access an efficient complaints procedure. We support Dame Elish Angiolini's proposal for an improved police complaints system, and welcome a much enhanced role in complaints for the independent Police Investigations and Review Commissioner.

However, Council regrets that figures, published in January, demonstrated a quarter of 101 calls were abandoned; and expresses its deep disappointment that the family of Sheku Bayoh are still without justice 8 years later.

Council also regrets that misogyny, sexism and "boys club" culture is still rife within all levels of Police Scotland and stands in solidarity with women who have called out this behaviour. Council believes in order to address sexism, Police Scotland need to prioritise policy, process and education gaps and challenge bias wherever it occurs to build confidence with women officers and communities, and asks that Greater Glasgow Police bring an update on their plans to deal with sexism and misogyny in all levels of policing to a future meeting of the Safe Glasgow Partnership.

Council notes that the Scottish Police Authority reported at the COSLA Police Scrutiny Forum on 9 May that the last quarter UK Average Speed of Answer for 999 calls was 12.46 seconds whilst Police Scotland responded in 10.56 seconds, and the 101 non-emergency call response by Police Scotland was an average 4 minutes for 1.8 million calls.

Council believes that diversity and equality in the police force is crucial and Police Scotland should be representative of the communities it serves; that Police Scotland is not immune to the institutional challenges faced by other police forces in the world; and that the Police can function best when they are held to account by local communities and local people.

Council is committed to defending the right to protest and opposes any attempts to restrict this right, including use of excessive force against protestors by Police Scotland. Council agrees that better transparency and accountability is needed to gain public confidence on how protests and processions are dealt with locally and asks officers to engage with Police Scotland on how they will report on that through the Safe Glasgow partnership.

Council believes that key elements of policing in Scotland are of a distinctively community-based nature and that these should be visible and accountable to communities through local democratic structures. Council notes that on the establishment on Police Scotland in 2013, a range of different local accountability models were adopted by local authorities across Scotland, and that in the model adopted in Glasgow, Police Scotland is accountable to and scrutinised by elected members and communities through Community Planning structures, including local Area Partnerships, and through the Safe Glasgow committee, which has cross-party membership. Council further notes that the Council's Community Justice and Community Safety services report regularly to the Council's policy committees and

believes that the return of services previously carried out by the Community Safety Glasgow ALEO to direct Council oversight has improved the visibility of these to elected members. Council further notes that all local authorities including Glasgow City Council are directly involved in scrutiny of police and fire services at national level through the COSLA Police Scrutiny Forum.

Council understands that other local authorities operate different local accountability models for both police and fire services, including for example through Local Scrutiny Boards or Committees. Council believes that the 10th anniversary of the establishment of national police and fire services is an appropriate moment to review Glasgow's own arrangements and therefore instructs officers to bring a paper after recess, providing comparisons between different local police and fire scrutiny arrangements across Scotland and their effectiveness, and suggesting potential opportunities to enhance the local accountability of these services in Glasgow."

On a vote being taken electronically and by roll call, 47 members voted for the combined amendment by Bailie McCabe and Councillor Wardrop and 35 for the motion.

The combined amendment by Bailie McCabe and Councillor Wardrop was accordingly declared to be carried.