

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

POLICE SCOTLAND DIVISIONAL COMMANDER – PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To appraise Council Executive of the proposed appointment of a new Police Scotland Divisional Commander for the Lothian and Borders area. This role was previously fulfilled by Chief Superintendent John McKenzie but will soon become vacant when he retires.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council Executive agrees to support the appointment of Chief Superintendent Catriona Paton to the role of Divisional Commander for the Lothian and Borders area.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Focusing on our customers' needs;- Being honest, open and accountable;- Providing equality of opportunities;- Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The legislative framework for local policing is set out within the Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The appointment to the Divisional Commander role is key to delivering improved performance in addressing community safety.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	The Divisional Commander will be responsible for leading and managing policing within the local authority area and will also have responsibilities in relation to community planning, community engagement and working with partners. This will underpin several elements of the Single Outcome Agreement.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None

VII Consideration at PDSP None

VIII Other consultations None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

The Assistant Chief Constable for the East of Scotland has written to notify the council of his proposals to appoint a new Divisional Commander for the Lothian and Borders area as the role will soon become vacant.

The Assistant Chief Constable has notified the Chief Executive of his intention to appoint Chief Superintendent Catriona Paton as the Divisional Commander for Lothian and Borders. Detail of Chief Superintendent Paton's extensive background with Police Scotland can be found in Appendix 1.

E. CONCLUSION

In advance of the scheduled retirement of Chief Superintendent John McKenzie, it is recommended that the Council Executive agrees to support the appointment of Chief Superintendent Catriona Paton as the new Divisional Commander for Lothian and Borders.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Letter from Assistant Chief Constable for the East of Scotland Region to West Lothian Council Chief Executive (see appendix 1).

Appendices/Attachments: 1

1. Letter from ACC Tim Mairs to the Chief Executive

Contact Person: Caitlin Hirst, Project Officer; Caitlin.Hirst@westlothian.gov.uk 01506 281278

Graham Hope
Chief Executive

Date of meeting: 26 October 2021

5th October 2021

Graham Hope
Chief Executive
West Lothian Council
7 Whitestone Place
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Bathgate
EH48 2HA



Tim Mairs
Assistant Chief Constable

Local Policing East
Police Scotland
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Dear Graham,

Police Scotland Divisional Commander – Lothian & Scottish Borders

As you will be aware, the role of Police Scotland Divisional Commander in Lothian & Scottish Borders Division will soon become vacant.

As Assistant Chief Constable responsible for Local Policing in the East of Scotland, it is my responsibility to assist the Chief Constable in identifying a suitable and experienced officer to take up this important role. I want to ensure that the best person is identified to deliver effective policing services through productive partnerships. This includes consideration of their overall ability to lead and manage policing in your local authority area, including their commitment to community planning, community engagement and working with partners.

I believe that you have had a very positive working relationship with Chief Superintendent John McKenzie and I am confident that the person identified to assume this role as his successor will quickly forge a strong professional partnership with you and your staff with a structured handover scheduled to allow that early engagement.

My nomination for your Local Police Commander is Chief Superintendent Catriona Paton and I write to consult you on this proposition and seek your views. In particular it would help me to know of any specific local challenges or opportunities which might await her, and what your expectations are in relation to your local partnership, looking ahead.

Chief Superintendent Catriona Paton currently works within Criminal Justice Services Division, leading on an organisational wide change project which is seeking to remodel middle office functions to continue to support the effective delivery of operational policing. Catriona was promoted into this role in July 2020.

Catriona has over 30 years policing experience having joined Central Scotland Police in 1989 as a Police Cadet. During her time in policing Catriona has been a leader across virtually the full spectrum of policing functions both operationally and organisationally. Her experience includes leadership roles within Response Policing, Community Planning, Community Policing, Criminal Investigation, Public Protection, Counter Terrorism and Organisational Change.

On the creation of Police Scotland, Catriona was head of Public Protection in Forth Valley Division and used her experience within this field to lead the Risk and Concern Project, which together with partners, transformed services designed to protect our most vulnerable people across Scotland. Over recent years Catriona has held command of other key aspects of policing including Head of Border Policing Command and also Head of Counter Terrorist Intelligence. At the outset of the pandemic, Catriona led on Organisational Learning as part of our Recovery Strategy.

Catriona is a Strategic Firearms Commander (SFC) and an experienced Hostage and Crisis Negotiator, a role she has carried out for over 15 years.

Catriona has an extensive history of leading investigations, reviews, commanding challenging and critical incidents and addressing wider partnership and community issues. In all of these roles, and many others, Catriona's focus remains on listening to understand the views and perspectives of others, especially those who feel marginalised and / or victimised and committing to play her part in establishing trusting resilient relationships which help transform lives for the better.

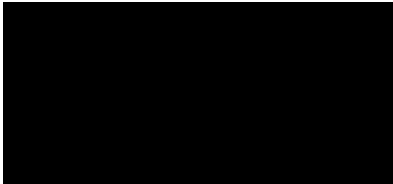
Catriona still resides within Forth Valley and she is the mother of two adult sons both of whom are in the process of taking up careers in the military.

I would be grateful if you could therefore respond, advising whether you support my nomination of Chief Superintendent Paton as Local Police Commander for your area. I would appreciate an early reply, which would allow me to share your views with the Chief Constable.

Chief Superintendent Paton is a highly experienced officer and I am certain the positive working relationship the Council previously enjoyed with Chief Superintendent McKenzie will continue in the capable hands of Chief Superintendent Paton.

I am happy to receive a response in writing, but if you would rather discuss this by telephone I will of course arrange that. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Kind regards,



Tim Mairs
Assistant Chief Constable
Local Policing East