

SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE

STATEMENT ON CORPORATE PLANNING

In 2019, the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) took the decision to refresh our Corporate Plan due to the unanticipated population and financial pressures the organisation was facing. We published our new Corporate Plan 2019/22 in April 2019.

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

Towards the end of the 2019/20 reporting year, the SPS had to address the unprecedented challenge of maintaining service provision in the face of the challenges brought about by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Our key priority at the time is to ensure that we provide a safe and secure environment for those in our care as well as for those who work for the organisation.

In order to do so, the SPS has had to prioritise our pandemic incident response and has diverted significant resource from non-business critical activities. As a result of this our usual governance structures have been replaced with interim arrangements designed to expedite urgent decision making in a rapidly changing environment.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OUR CORPORATE PLAN AND OUR ANNUAL DELIVERY PLANS?

Our established corporate planning processes have been temporarily suspended due to the need to focus on our response to COVID-19 for however long is necessary. We are therefore unable to prepare an Annual Delivery Plan in the normal way for 2020/21.

However, whilst managing the immediate response to COVID-19 is paramount, we recognise the need to keep an eye to the future and begin planning for a return to 'business as usual' as well as taking into account the longer term implications of COVID-19 for the service. We have therefore:

- Undertaken a high level assessment of the position of our Corporate Plan relative to COVID-19;
- Identified a small number of key areas of strategic activity that need to be maintained during this period;
- Established a COVID-19 related decisions log for strategic review in case there are any corporate planning implications;
- Anticipated the resumption of the planning cycle through the identification of priority areas to be addressed when circumstances allow;
- Commissioned work into developing the SPS Recovery Framework. An interim Delivery Plan for 2020/21 will be prepared in line with the Recovery Framework.

The outputs of these actions will be utilised to inform future corporate and strategic planning activity.

TERESA MEDHURST

Interim Chief Executive, SPS

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