The development of a Digital, Data and ICT Strategy for policing is an essential part of the 10 year strategy for policing *Policing 2026: Serving a Changing Scotland*.

It is important not just in delivering essential capabilities to make policing fit for future in areas such as tackling cyber-enabled crime, but essential also as a key enabler of the wider 2026 strategy itself. It is also important for digital service improvements and efficiencies across the Justice sector as a whole.

At its Board meeting on 31 May 2018 the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) considered Police Scotland’s digital, data and ICT strategy, and proposals for taking forward implementation work. The SPA Board discussed why this work is important, the need to improve digital and technological capability, and the potential benefits to policing and the public. The strategy acknowledges historic underinvestment in technology by policing in Scotland, the need to replace the ageing infrastructure, and the operational requirement to stay ahead of serious organised crime and other threats.

The Police Scotland proposals signal a need for significant investment. The Board agreed that work should continue over the next three to four months to complete an Outline Business Case which should be put to the Board for approval in the Autumn of 2018. Board Members stressed that future investment in technology must be matched with a focus on business change to support the workforce to be able to make best use of that technology.

The Board’s scrutiny of the strategy highlighted further areas for development by Police Scotland, including:

- benchmarking and better measuring the improvements in capacity and capability envisaged from technology;
- considering further how this investment will support public services as a whole in addressing community need as well as benefiting policing;
- equalities implications and consideration of other wider impacts of technological change and investment;
- ensuring that management and governance arrangements reflect learning from other successful examples of technology integration and investment and from examples of past failures.

Scottish Police Authority
14 June 2018