

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services**

#### **Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee 7 February 2007**

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**Subject: Public Health Legislation in Scotland: A Consultation**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To inform the Committee of a response sent to the Scottish Executive in early January in order to meet the 12 January 2007 deadline for responses.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Public health legislation in Scotland is contained in a number of statutes and dates back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It has contributed greatly in controlling infectious diseases, nuisances, and other threats to health but it is not wholly consistent with current practice or modern life.
- 2.2** The consultation sets out a number of proposals to strengthen the public health response in Scotland and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of those working in the public health field.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** The consultation is mainly concerned with health protection which includes ensuring the safety and quality of food, water, air and the general environment; preventing the transmission of communicable diseases; managing outbreaks and other incidents which threaten public health; and promoting safety at home, in the community and at work.

This is the basis of all environmental health activity in a local authority setting.

- 3.2** All Departments were invited to provide comments and these have been considered and included in the response which is attached as appendix 1.

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

- 4.1** The new legislation will be applicable to West Dunbartonshire Council and will mainly impact on the activities of the Environmental Health Section.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** None at present.

## **6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** There are no risks associated with the content of this report.

## **7. Conclusion**

**7.1** Officers have welcomed the review of Public Health legislation and encouraged the Scottish Executive to adopt a consultative approach to develop the legislation to ensure that it works in practice and serves the public well for future generations.

## **8. Recommendation**

**8.1** That the Committee agrees to homologate the response previously submitted to the Scottish Executive.

**Ronald Dinnie**  
**Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services**  
**(Land and Environmental Services)**

**Date: 11 January 2007**

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**Appendices:** Public Health Legislation in Scotland: A Consultation.  
West Dunbartonshire Council response.

**Background Papers:** Public Health Legislation in Scotland: a Consultation:  
Scottish Executive: October 2006.

**Wards Affected:** All