

A Consultation on the Future of Policing in Scotland



RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

West Dunbartonshire Council

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr Please tick as appropriate

Surname

Mc Millan

Forename

David

2. Postal Address

Council building

Garshake Road

Dumbarton

Postcode G82 3PU

Phone

Email

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual

/

Group/Organisation

Please tick as appropriate

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick **ONE** of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. How could police reform improve services and the delivery of outcomes?

The key challenge facing policing is to maximise all available partner resources to work closely with the police service in detecting and managing crime and anti social behaviour, but also to develop longer term preventative measures. Aligning performance management and community engagement, and continuing to improve information sharing and intelligence, is critical to this challenge. It is essential that Police reform is considered in the wider context of Local Government finances. Reform should be based on improved outcomes, a robust evidence and business case, and local accountability and democracy.

2. What do you think are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing policing in Scotland today and how do you think they should be addressed?

There is an opportunity to better align police services with other local services. Backroom costs could be significantly reduced if this was shared with local authorities. However it is not clear how Local Authorities could contribute to the cost of policing if there is a move towards a single national police structure. That is why it is important to consider police reform holistically within the wider context of public sector reorganisation and reform in Scotland. It is also important to ensure that reform of police structures does not impact negatively on the numbers of police officers deployed locally.

3. How can partnership working between the police and other organisations be improved?

Partnership working between Strathclyde Police and the Council and its CPP partners is effective in West Dunbartonshire. A key element of this is effective community policing part funded and monitored through multi agency programmes. The success of this model is evidenced in increased detection rates and reduced crime. However further work can be done to share information, develop early detection, develop and support community champions, and focus more on preventative work e.g. tackling anti social behaviour, violence against women and addiction.

4. How can the police better engage with communities to help them be more resilient and self-reliant?

Deliver community engagement in partnership through local CPPs ensuring that this engagement meets with the National Standards. Public bodies should stop delivering community engagement individually and instead should engage with communities collectively, ensuring that equalities challenges are met, improving feedback mechanisms and reducing the cost of engagement overall.

5. What arrangements and relationships do you think would lead to the greatest improvements in national and local accountability?

Single police force but with local flexibility, and ability for divisional commanders to adapt services to meet local need. Align police divisions with local authorities and increase local scrutiny over partnerships and preventative work as a part of the overall scrutiny and accountability of the Police. Ensure full alignment with local Single Outcome Agreement.

6. Do you agree that change is necessary to protect frontline services?

Yes No Don't know

7. Which option do you think should be pursued and why?

- A single Scottish police force**
- A rationalised regional force model**
- Retain eight forces with increased collaboration**
- Other (please specify)**
- Don't know**

A single police force may offer the best opportunities to maximise efficiencies from back room services, protecting frontline policing, but clarity is required on how this will be funded. There is insufficient detail on how a single force will impact on locally funded policing initiatives. In addition, significant progress has already been made in improving detection and prevention of crime at community level in West Dunbartonshire. Local partnerships and collaborative working models are producing results here. Our Public Reassurance model is effective and well received. It is essential therefore that operational decision making is fully devolved to the local area, where appropriate.

8. How could we best improve accountability, deliver efficiencies and deliver service improvements at local and national levels?

Sharing backroom costs such as administration or asset management with local authorities should deliver efficiencies at local and regional level. Structurally the new national police force should have local divisions that are coterminous with local authority boundaries or groups of local authorities in outlying or sparsely populated areas.

9. Do you have any views on how the process of change should be approached, including the extent and pace of change within a given option?

no specific comments

10. To assist with our Equality Impact Assessment on the reform, please describe any equality issues (in relation to race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, transgender people and religion) relevant to each of the options.

No specific comments

11. To assist with our Regulatory Impact Assessment, please describe any financial or other impacts for business, charities and the voluntary sector relevant to each of the options.

No specific comments

12. Do you think there needs to be any change to the existing roles and responsibilities of the key bodies responsible for policing?

Police Boards would need to be restructured to reflect the new police structure with local accountability devolved to local authority level, or groups of local authorities in outlying or sparsely populated areas.

Please email this response form to policereform@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or you can post it to :

Claire Pentland
Police Division
Scottish Government
1 West Rear
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh,
EH1 3DG