

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services

Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee 7 February 2007

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 19th 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