

# A CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE 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

McMillan

Forename

David

### 2. Postal Address

Chief Executive

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 and/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

**Question 1: Is this the right vision for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?**

Yes  No  Don't know

The vision is the right one in that it is responsive to the increased demands for locally delivered and locally managed services.

**Question 2: Do you agree that these should be the key principles for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?**

Yes  No  Don't know

**Question 3: Do you agree that the option to de-centralise the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service should be considered?**

Yes  No  Don't know

Comments from some local stakeholders suggest that a culture change in terms of the approach to partnership working is required rather than a structural change.

**Question 4: How well is the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service performing against what you believe to be the key principles and what do you consider to be the priorities for improvement?**

The SFRS is working effectively in West Dunbartonshire and is fully committed to developing excellence in its activity and to working in partnership through the CPP.

**Question 5: Do you agree that these should be the desired benefits for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?**

Yes  No  Don't know

**Are there others we should add?**

Desired benefits outlined in consultation paper are agreed and fully comprehensive

**Question 6: What are your views on an appropriate mechanism for Ministers and MSPs to hold the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to account?**

The concept of a "blue light" parliamentary scrutiny committee should be progressed. A membership group wider than MSPs should also be considered.

**Question 7: What are your views on an appropriate mechanism for local communities to hold the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to account?**

The concept of a "blue light" community planning committee should be piloted, populated by key stakeholders including elected members and community reps.

**Question 8: What is the right balance between the national and local mechanisms set out in questions 6 and 7?**

Strategic and corporate issues should be addressed nationally, all other operational and tactical issues should be addressed locally.

**Question 9: Do you think that the number of fire and rescue services needs to be reduced?**

Yes  No  Don't know

No Specific Comments, but in general terms the cost of restructuring should be considered, and any changes must protect the quality and impact of services.

**Question 10: If so, which option do you think should be pursued and why?**

Single service  Regional Structure

More efficient, better standards across Scotland, more cost effective - but must allow operational issues to be devolved to local authority level.

**Question 11: To assist with our Equality Impact Assessment process, please also describe any equality issues (in relation to race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, transgender people and religion) relevant to your chosen option?**

no specific comments

**Question 12: To assist with our Regulatory Impact Assessment, please also describe any financial and other impacts for business, charities and the voluntary sector relevant to your chosen option?**

No Specific Comments

**Question 13: What aspects of collaboration and joint working between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and other emergency services do you believe should be a key focus in future?**

no specific comments

**Question 14: Do you think local fire stations should be developed into community resilience hubs, and, if so, what new services would you see them deliver?**

Yes  No  Don't know

There should be an emphasis on working in partnership through existing CPP structures to deliver more awareness raising and preventative work.