

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council: 27 April 2011

**Subject: Consultation on the Future of Policing in Scotland
Consultation on the Future of Fire and Rescue in Scotland**

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper seeks Council approval for a response to formal consultation on the future of Policing and Fire and Rescue in Scotland.

2. Background

2.1 The Scottish Government has produced two major consultation documents on the future of Policing and Fire and Rescue in Scotland. The consultation documents are available to download in full on www.scotland.gov.uk/policereform and www.scotland.gov.uk/firereform

2.2 Formal responses to this consultation are expected to be provided electronically where possible. Attachments to this paper contain the proposed electronic response from West Dunbartonshire Council for both consultations.

2.3 In preparing this response, the views of stakeholders were sought including through the Community Planning thematic group Building Safe and Strong Communities. The response also reflects some comments issued by COSLA.

3. Main Issues

3.1 Both consultation documents propose structural changes to create national agencies that would be balanced by local structures that would be subject to local accountability.

3.2 For the Police consultation the key questions relate to:

- How police reform could improve services and the delivery of outcomes
- What are the key challenges facing the police
- How can partnership working with the police be improved
- How can community engagement be improved
- What is the right structure going forward

3.3 For the Fire and Rescue consultation the key questions relate to:-

- What is the right vision for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- What are the right structures going forward
- How can Ministers and MSPs hold the service to account
- How can local communities hold the service to account

3.4 For both consultations the key local concern is to protect effective partnership and collaborative working and local accountability. It is also felt important to maintain good working relationships and resources at current levels, irrespective of the national structures.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no personnel issues associated with this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications in the production of this report.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There are no risk issues in the production of this report.

7. Equalities, Health and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 There are no equalities, health or human rights issues in this covering report.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 Council is asked to note this report and approve the submission of the attached comments on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council.

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Chief Executive
Date: 31 March 2011

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Appendices: Electronic response to Scottish Government consultation on the future of Policing and Fire and Rescue Services in Scotland

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All