

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: REFORMING POLICE AND
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES IN SCOTLAND**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Executive, at their meeting on 21st April 2011 considered two Scottish Government consultations in respect of the future of (a) Police and (b) Fire and Rescue services in Scotland. The terms of a response were agreed.
- 1.2 On 11th August 2011 the Executive considered a report outlining concerns expressed by COSLA around the Police consultation and agreed that I should write to the First Minister, and the Justice Secretary, maintaining the Council's previous position in regard to the proposals.
- 1.3 On 7th September 2011, the First Minister outlined proposals to bring forward legislation that will establish a single Police Service for Scotland, and on 8th September the Cabinet Secretary for Justice published an outline business case and consultation document seeking views on proposals for the detailed operation of these services. These documents can be found in the following link:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/357525/0120778.pdf>

A hard copy of the document, setting out the detail of the matters on which views are requested is attached (appendix 1).
- 1.4 This paper suggests arrangements, given the timescales for responses, to permit a Council view to be expressed on these latest proposals.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Executive Director – Customer Services be instructed to draft a response to the proposals which will follow the Council's existing policy position, as set out in responses to the previous consultation, so far as is possible, in consultation with the Leader and Depute Leader of the Council, and submit this to the Scottish Government before the consultation deadline of 2nd November 2011.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The Scottish Government intends to bring forward legislation to create a Single Scottish Police Service, and a Single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. This follows consultation on the principles of reform, and engagement with stake holders across Scotland about the future of these services. Responses to the Government's earlier consultation, together with analysis of them were published in June 2011.
- 3.2 The further consultation which has now been announced, and which runs until 2nd November 2011, sets out how the Scottish Government intends to establish single services, and invites comments to help shape the final proposals, and the legislation which will be brought forward. The specific matters which this further consultation paper covers can be seen from the document (appendix 1) and range from seeking views on how the proposed purpose of Policing and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service can be strengthened, to obtaining views on the proposals to integrate the existing bodies into a single service or on how and when partnership arrangements should adapt to align with proposed new structure. Specifically, proposals are set out which consider defining the purpose of Police, and Fire and Rescue Services, and also sets out proposals for governance, scrutiny, the workforce and funding.
- 3.3 It is understood that the Government will continue dialogue with stakeholders during the consultation period.
- 3.4 The period of the consultation exercise is such that it would not be possible to obtain approval from the Executive, or from the full Council, at their next regular meetings on 3rd and 24th November respectively. Accordingly, it is recommended that the drafting of a response to the consultation be delegated to the Executive Director – Customer Services, in consultation with the Leader and Depute Leader of the Council.

4. CONCLUSION

The paper recommends a mechanism whereby a Council response to the Government consultation can be submitted timeously.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy: Any response drafted will have regard to existing Council policy.

- 5.2 Financial: None at this stage.
- 5.3 Legal: None at this stage.
- 5.4 HR: None at this stage.
- 5.5 Equalities: None at this stage.
- 5.6 Risk: None at this stage.

Executive Director – Customer Services
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