



GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

COMMITTEE: GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

DATE: 4TH NOVEMBER 2011

TITLE OF REPORT: KEEPING SCOTLAND SAFE AND STRONG:A
CONSULTATION ON REFORMING POLICE AND FIRE
SERVICES IN SCOTLAND

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update Members of the content of the Boards response to the Scottish Government consultation 'Keeping Scotland Safe & Strong: A consultation on reforming Police and Fire services in Scotland'.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Board note the consultation response.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None at present. There may be future financial implications for the Board dependent upon the outcome of the Scottish Government Consultation process and these will be reported to the Board in due course.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The outcome of the Scottish Government Consultation is likely to have a significant service and community impact in the Grampian area and beyond.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Depending on the outcome of the Scottish Government consultation there may be a range of other implications which will be reported to the Board in due course.

6. REPORT

6.1 On 8th September 2011, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill MSP announced that there would be a Single Scottish Police Force. On 15th September 2011 the Scottish Government published a consultation document entitled 'Keeping Scotland Safe & Strong: A consultation on reforming Police and Fire services in Scotland' with a

closing date of responses of 2nd November 2011. The consultation covered a wide range of areas including the purpose of policing, structure, accountability and governance audit & inspection and workforce arrangements.

- 6.2 Following e-mail consultation with all Board Members it was agreed that the Board would submit a response to this consultation. It was further agreed that this response would be prepared in the Clerks office following invitation to all Members to input into this. Following receipt of comments from a number of Members the draft response was forwarded to all Members for further comment on 31st October 2011.
- 6.3 By 2nd November 2011, no further comments from Board Members were received and, following consultation with the Convener, the submission attached in appendix one was forwarded to the Scottish Government from the Grampian Joint Police Board.
- 6.4 The restructuring of the Police Service in Scotland is likely to be a significant issue for the remaining period of the current Board and for the new Grampian Joint Police Board following Local Government Elections in May 2012. Regular updates will be provided to the Board as this matter develops.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Karen M Donnelly
Depute Clerk
2nd November 2011