
ARGYLL AND BUTE CPP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Argyll and Bute Council

13 April 2011

THE FUTURE OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES IN SCOTLAND

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 In line with a series of related pieces of work and consultations currently underway, the Scottish Government has launched its consultation on the future of the fire and rescue service in Scotland. Responses to the consultation are required before 05 May 2011 and the council will be providing a response within that timeframe to represent the views of Argyll and Bute Council. The consultation questions are outlined in appendix one.
- 1.2 This paper seeks to establish a view from the CPP Management Committee as to whether a joint response from the CPP would be appropriate. For the information of partners, the proposed council response would focus on the four key principles outlined in section 3.2.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the CPP Management Committee comes to a view on whether a joint response to the consultation would be appropriate.
- 2.2 That the CPP Management Committee comes to a view on which agency should co-ordinate a joint response if this is agreed to be the preferred way forward.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The three main options under consideration for fire and rescue services include having eight services with increased collaborative working, having one national service, or having a regionalised service (with an, as yet, unspecified number of regions to fit with wider public sector reforms). All of these options are discussed in more detail in the consultation documentation which can be accessed via the consultations section of the Scottish Government website.
- 3.2 The generic key principles for discussion for a proposed response are that:
 - Any new structure needs to take account of local accountability whether at Local Authority or Community Planning Partnership level

- Any new structure needs to ensure that local outcomes drive local fire and rescue services and national outcomes do not cause a tension
- The focus of the review should be on outcomes and fire and rescue roles
- Any new structure should protect and enhance local partnership arrangements

4.0 CONCLUSION

Whether individual or joint responses are provided, it would be appropriate to ensure that all options outlined through the consultation are considered in line with our wider discussions on shared services and in line with the wider work of the Christie Commission.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy – no immediate policy implications
- 5.2 Financial – no immediate financial implications
- 5.3 Legal – no immediate legal implications
- 5.4 HR – no immediate HR implications
- 5.5 Equalities – no immediate equalities implications
- 5.6 Risk – the threats identified in the SWOT analyses should be considered as potential risks.

Sally Loudon, Chief Executive
08 March 2011

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Appendix One – See attached consultation questions / draft answers