

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITIES
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2006	Ref: BC/JS	

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise committee of the outcome of the Scottish Executive Consultation on Community Justice Authorities.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Management of Offenders in the Community (Scotland) Act was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005 and enacted in December 2005 .
- 2.2 The Act lays out detailed legislative measures to improve the management of offenders. It includes provision for establishment of Community Justice Authorities placing new duties on Local Government and Ministers to work more closely together in the development and implementation of plans for the management of offenders.
- 2.3 In March 2005 the Scottish Executive published the consultative paper, "Supporting Safer Stronger Communities; Consultation on Community Justice Authorities."
- 2.4 The purpose of the consultation was to gather views on numerous issues related to the creation of Community Justice Authorities.
- 2.5 A report to the Social Work Committee in August 2005, detailed the issues and set out North Lanarkshire Council's response to the consultation.
- 2.6 The consultation proposed the establishment of either four or six Community Justice Authorities across Scotland.
- 2.7 North Lanarkshire's response supported the establishment of eight Criminal Justice Authorities with the current Lanarkshire Criminal Justice area will host one of the new Community Justice Authorities.
- 2.8 North Lanarkshire Council's response highlighted the proposal for eight Community Justice Authorities as being more realistic in relation to service requirements, population and existing planning mechanisms.

### 3. Proposals/Considerations

- 3.1 On the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005, the Scottish Executive published the Independent Analysis of the Consultation on Community Justice Authorities and set out the Minister's response.
- 3.2 The Justice Minister accepted the proposal for eight Community Justice Authorities, which had been supported by COSLA, ADSW, and a number of existing Criminal Justice Partnerships and local Authorities.
- 3.3 The eight Community Justice Authorities are as follows:
- Glasgow
  - Aberdeen, Aberdeen City, Moray, Highland, Orkney, Shetland and Eilean Siar.
  - Angus, Dundee City, Perth and Kinross.
  - Fife, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling.
  - City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian, Scottish Borders.
  - Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde.
  - North and South Lanarkshire.
  - East, North and South Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway.
- 3.4 The members of the Community Justice Authorities will be drawn from the membership of local authorities within the Community Justice Authority area, bringing individual councils together for the purpose of :
- Developing a Strategic Area Plan for the management of offenders in liaison with the Scottish Prison Service and other partners.
  - Receiving and distributing amongst local authorities funds provided by Ministers for Community Justice Social Workers.
  - Promoting and sharing good practice.
  - Monitoring and reporting on local authority performance.
  - If necessary, intervening to ensure the local authority elements of the area plan are delivered.
  - Carrying out wider monitoring and reporting functions on other partners, including the Scottish Prison Services.
- 3.5 The minister has asked Scottish Executive officials to have further discussions with COSLA in relation to constitutional issues, such as voting arrangements, within the Community Justice Authorities.
- 3.6 The minister has decided that the role of Chief Officers for the Community Justice Authorities will be crucial to the success of the Community Justice Authorities.

#### 4. Personnel and Financial Implications

4.1 At this time, there are no financial implications or personnel implications for the Council. However, as information and guidance are released by the Executive on the establishment of the Community Justice Authorities, the Council, with its partners will progress the implementation. Resourcing of the new authorities will be the responsibility of the Executive but it is likely that the implementation will have to take account of local authority requirements in relation to conditions of service and remuneration.

#### 5.

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the outcome of the consultation on Community Justice Authorities.
- (ii) Note that the present Lanarkshire Criminal Justice area will host a new Community Justice Authority.
- (iii) In collaboration with South Lanarkshire Council report to Lanarkshire Community Justice Forum, on the contents of this report.
- (iv) Update Social Work Committee on developments and guidance relating to the establishment of Community Justice Authorities.



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