

REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE: HMP ADDIEWELL
From: HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES	
Date: 7 May 2008	Ref: JAF/IL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report advises the Committee that a new prison – HMP Addiewell – is due to open in December 2008, and of the consequential proposal to amend the Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2006 to require North Lanarkshire Council to make appointments to a Prison Visiting Committee for HMP Addiewell.

2. Background

- 2.1 For every prison and young offenders institution in Scotland there is a Prison Visiting Committee, members of which are appointed by local authorities for the areas served by the relevant institution: thus North Lanarkshire Council makes appointments to Prison Visiting Committees for HMP Barlinnie and HMP Shotts. HMP Addiewell will be situated within West Lothian but, having regard to the domicile of likely inmates, it is proposed that the amendment to the Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2006 to make provision for a Prison Visiting Committee for HMP Addiewell will require three local authorities - North Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council and West Lothian Council – to make appointments to that Prison Visiting Committee.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is understood that the amendment to the Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules will require North Lanarkshire Council to make five appointments to the Addiewell Prison Visiting Committee – and that two of the appointees may not be elected members of North Lanarkshire Council. In anticipation of this requirement – and against the background of the importance of maintaining appointments to the Prison Visiting Committees for Barlinnie and Shotts – it is proposed that the recruitment process now commence.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Committee
- (a) note the anticipated requirement on North Lanarkshire Council to appoint members to a Prison Visiting Committee for HMP Addiewell
- and
- (b) agree that the recruitment process now commence.


Head of Central Services

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.