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## Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

### General Purposes Committee

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Subject: Police Accountability White Paper

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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### 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To receive the response of the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice to the White Paper Resolution in respect of the Police Accountability White Paper approved at the Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010.
- 1.2 The report attached at appendix 1 was considered at full Council on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010 where it was resolved that the matter be referred to General Purposes Committee for consideration.

### 2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010 a white paper motion was moved by Councillor Lowe and seconded by Councillor J L Carter in respect of Police Accountability.
- 2.2 At that meeting Council resolved ;

'That this Council opposes any plans to scrap Police Authorities.

This Council notes that the Government's plans would mean a Commissioner in West Yorkshire having responsibility for an area covering 23 parliamentary constituencies, three cities and two major towns and therefore considers this might adversely affect the ambition for greater local accountability.

Council therefore resolves that greater consideration should be given to how local accountability can be strengthened. This Council recognises the need for increased police accountability to encourage greater public confidence in both local and national policing but feels that Elected Members have a very important role to play in this which would be lost if Police Authorities were scrapped.

This Council therefore calls on the Chief Executive and all Leeds MPs to write to the Home Secretary setting out our opposition to any plan to abolish police authorities.'

### **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the Committee receives and considers the response of the Minister of State for Policing attached at appendix 2.

#### Background Documents Used

- Full Council report 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010 - attached at Appendix 1