



Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

Council

Date: 17th November 2010

Subject: Police Accountability White Paper

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose of 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 15th September 2010.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 15th September 2010 a white paper motion was moved by Councillor Lowe and seconded by Councillor JL 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 Purpose of Report

- 3.1 To present to Council the response from the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice to the Council resolution in respect of Police Accountability including the Ministers comments in respect of Council reversing the resolution.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 That Members receive the response of the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice and refer that response to the General Purposes Committee for consideration.