

# **Social Justice & Regeneration Committee**

**SJR(2)-10-06(p1)**

**Date: Wednesday 21 June 2006**

**Time: 9.30am-12.30pm**

**Venue: Senedd, National Assembly for Wales**

**Title: Restructuring the Constabulary - Democratic Structures**

## **Background**

1. In September 2005, the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee was asked to undertake a review on the implications for Wales of the Closing the Gap Report. The Committee agreed to take this forward and reported in November 2005.

2. The then Home Secretary's response to the Committee's Report and to the general consultation exercise the Home Office carried out with Police Authorities and Chief Constables was to announce that his preferred option was for the four existing police forces in Wales to merge into one All Wales Strategic Force and he announced his intention to produce draft legislation to that effect. The then Home Secretary agreed that the proposed legislation would allow for the National Assembly for Wales to impact on future issues relating to regional and local accountability which would underpin the proposed new force. The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration again referred this matter to the Committee to gather evidence and report on the democratic structures that would most suit the Welsh requirement.

## **The Review**

3. In undertaking its review, the Committee was faced with a short timescale. However, it embarked on a series of both written and oral consultations. The Committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations are outlined in the attached Annex.

## **Action**

4. The intention is that the Committee will produce a report for debate in plenary on 5 July 2006. Members are therefore being invited to advise on both the format and content of this report. In particular, Members are being asked to consider the conclusions and recommendations in Chapter 3.

## **Recommendation**

5. For Members to agree that the conclusions and recommendations chapter of the final report reflects their consideration of these issues.

**Committee Service**

**June 2006**