

ACC 9/11/1

## **Restructuring of Constabulary – Submission of Ceredigion County Council to the National Assembly for Wales Social Justice and Regeneration Committee**

The County Council has considered the invitation contained in your letter of 28 September 2005 for submissions on the Restructuring of Constabulary by way of an all-party panel and the following comments are submitted for the consideration of the Committee. In formulating its submission, it also took account of the views of the Ceredigion Community Safety Partnership and the discussions underway at the WLGA.

The County Council strongly recommends that the National Assembly should be given devolved powers and responsibility for the police force throughout Wales. It believes that this is the important principle that should underpin any future restructuring exercise. Such a development would bring all emergency services in Wales under the control of the National Assembly with all the benefits of more effective cooperation and coordination this would entail.

Once this was established, it would provide a national framework for the discussion on the most effective way of organising the police force in Wales. The County Council then agrees with the Ceredigion Community Safety Partnership that such a discussion should be based on the “critical building blocks” created by the current Basic Command Units [BCU] and would commend to the Committee the views expressed by the Partnership in their letter of 27 October 2005 that these should form the basis of any future structure.

Being mindful of the duties placed on the County Council by the Crime and Disorder Act 1989 and the structure in place in Ceredigion to promote cooperation and coordination between the relevant agencies, the County Council would also commend to you the key issues highlighted by the WLGA in respect of the role of local authorities in any restructuring, namely:

- Co-terminosity with Basic Command Units, Community Safety Partnerships and local government boundaries and support joined-up working by all partners across community safety
- Synergy with other police reform agendas such as Neighbourhood Policing
- Assurances that the resources available to Basic Command Units are ring fenced
- The proposed strategic police forces have accountability structures in place at a local and possibly regional level which must include local authorities
- Clear consultative links to local authorities and the communities they serve
- That governance of any new police areas includes local authority representation
- That, where possible, historic boundaries are protected
- Any new performance management framework reflects local needs and does not lead to additional burdens

Miss EMB Morgan  
Director of Corporate and Legal Services  
Ceredigion County Council  
4 November 2005