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Powys County Council ECR Directorate

Comments on Restructuring of Constabulary in Wales

Coterminosity has played an important role in the context of the Community Strategy in Powys, particularly where Powys holds a strong and well established link with the Powys Police Command Unit and the Powys Community Safety Partnership, which itself acts as one of the five Thematic Partnerships in the Community Strategy Structure.

This identity is vital within an all-Wales structure in order to fulfil the objectives and actions that the Community Strategy in Powys has set for its communities, by its communities.

The Carnegie (UK) Trust has recognised the effectiveness of community involvement in the Community Strategy process in Powys, where community safety and neighbourhood policing have been some of the key issues raised, and the profile of this recognition may well become more apparent in the future.

On a wider regional level, the Mid Wales identity is well established, both through the Mid Wales Partnership and its links with Carmarthenshire and Gwynedd, and significantly through the Wales Spatial Plan's Central Area theme, recognising that the heartland of Mid Wales, with its special situations of rurality, requires a different dimension of policing to that of the urban centres.

Whilst an all-Wales Constabulary may make strategic, economic and operational sense, the effectiveness of current Policing and Community Safety measures in Mid Wales must be properly recognised and resourced accordingly if it is to react effectively in the context of the Assembly's Plan Rationalisation programmes.

We would therefore not wish to object to the proposal in principle, since the concerns are largely operational. In the context of the Community Strategy process and partnership working generally, it is important that the structuring of the Constabulary is sensitive to local needs. This requires continuing and effective senior officer representation on the Community Strategy Partnership and Steering Group, and measures to secure effective engagement at community level. This applies both to the Community Strategy process and partnership working, and is clearly relevant particularly in Communities First areas and with the Local Community Forums.

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