

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Corporate Policy and Performance
DATE	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2011
DIRECTOR	Stewart Carruth
TITLE OF REPORT	Review of Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/11/136

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval in principle for the revised Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils, prior to the Scheme being advertised in the Press inviting representations from members of the public.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee –

- (a) approve in principle the proposed revised Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils as appended; and
- (b) if approved, refer the report and associated documents to a Special meeting of Council for consideration.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of advertising the proposed revised Scheme in the local Press can be met from within the existing approved Community Council Advertising budget therefore there would be no additional financial implications for the Council.

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other direct implications arising from this report.

### 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 In May 2009, the Scottish Government produced a Model Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. The purpose of the Model Scheme was to have a universal basis across Scotland for the way in which Community Councils would be governed and operate. Each

local authority is able to adapt the Model Scheme to reflect local arrangements.

- 5.2 In October 2010, consultation was undertaken with the established Community Councils regarding the current names, boundaries and membership numbers. Amendments as requested are detailed below.
- 5.2.1 Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council have requested that they reduce their membership number to 15.
- 5.2.3 Ferryhill Community Council have requested that their name be changed to Ferryhill and Ruthrieston Community Council (this was requested recently).
- 5.2.4 Kingswells Community Council have requested that their boundary be extended to the A944, to take in the new housing development and Kingswells Church, this proposal has agreement from Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber Community Council.
- 5.2.5 Bucksburn and Newhills Community Council have requested that their boundary be extended to take in the Forrit Brae area which currently sits within Dyce and Stoneywood Community Council area. This proposal has agreement from Dyce and Stoneywood Community Council.
- 5.2.6 Bucksburn and Newhills Community Council have also requested that the area of Stoneywood, which is an area that runs into Bucksburn be considered as part of the review. This area is currently within the Dyce and Stoneywood Community Council area and no agreement has been met between the Community Councils. If the proposal was to be accepted then the name of Dyce and Stoneywood Community Council would require to be amended to Dyce Community Council and Bucksburn and Newhills may wish to amend their name to reflect the addition of Stoneywood.
- 5.2.7 Old Aberdeen Community Council and Froghall Community Council have discussed their boundaries and have requested that the Spital Area which includes:- The Spital, King's Crescent (both sides of the road) up to Mounthooly Way and all roads to the east of the spine up to King Street be transferred into the Old Aberdeen Community Council area.

They have also requested that Sunnybank Park and Sunnybank Area which includes:- Hermitage Avenue, Sunnyside Avenue, Sunnyside Gardens, Sunnyside Terrace, Sunnybank Road, Bedford Place (north side) and Bedford Road (up to Hermitage Avenue) be transferred into the Froghall Community Council Area . Both Community Councils feel that the changes to these boundaries are a better reflection on the natural communities.

5.2.8 Froghall Community Council have also requested that they be merged with Powis Community Council. Residents within the Powis area have not been represented for a number of years as they have been unsuccessful in establishing a Community Council, despite numerous attempts to do so. The area is relatively small with approximately 500 voters. The area sits adjacent to the new boundaries outlined above. If the proposal is accepted the name for the Community Council would change to Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Community Council.

5.3 Following consultation Kincorth and Leggart Community Council have requested that they reduce their membership number to 15 and Northfield Community Council have requested that they reduce their membership number to 13.

5.3.1 A number of changes have been made following comments received from Councillor Greig to provide additional information or clarification to sections within the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils.

5.3.2 Comments made from Councillor Greig that have not been incorporated include:-

Reference to the election process being STV. Following consultation with other local authorities, one out of the thirteen that have responded use the STV method for Community Council elections. The Scottish Government's Model Scheme also states that the election will be on a majority basis.

5.4 Attached to the report is the revised Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils, a copy of the Model Constitution which each Community Council are required to adopt and the Code of Conduct for Community Councils.

Maps relating to the amended boundaries as detailed above are appended to the report and all other maps outlining the boundaries for the Community Councils are available in the members' library, local libraries and from the Community Council Liaison Officer.

5.5 In terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, a decision of a local authority to review their Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils shall be a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the numbers voting thereon at a local authority meeting specifically convened for the purpose with notice of the object.

Should the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee approve the proposal to amend the Scheme, it will be necessary for the proposal and supporting documents to be considered by a Special meeting of the Council.

After consideration by the Council, the proposal requires to be advertised in the local Press inviting representations from members of

the public. Thereafter the proposal together with any representations received, require to be considered by the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee and finally the Council for final approval.

## 6. IMPACT

This report takes into consideration aspects of the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement specifically in relation to Community Engagement. The Council are actively working to develop the working relationship between the Council and Community Councils through meetings with the Community Councils, their involvement in the Civic Forum and regular reviews of Community Council support.

## 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (a) Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Chapter 65, Part IV.
- (b) Aberdeen City Council's current Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils, dated November 2008.
- (c) Model Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils issued by the Scottish Government in 2009.

## 8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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