

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy and Performance
DATE	26 September 2013
DIRECTOR	Paul Fleming, Acting Director of Corporate Governance
TITLE OF REPORT	Community Council Protocol
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/13/080

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Community Council Protocol outlines the expected relationship between the Council and Community Councils across Aberdeen specifically in relation to consultation and communication. This report appends the Community Council Protocol and seeks that the Committee adopt the Protocol.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee are requested to adopt the Community Council Protocol as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the report as the Protocol if adopted will be issued electronically to Community Councils and placed on the Community Council area of the Council website. If hard copies are required this can be met from within the existing budget allocated for Community Councils.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other direct implications arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 The Community Council Protocol was developed in consultation with Community Councils and Officers in 2000/2001. The aim of the Protocol is to establish a more effective working relationship between the Council and Community Councils by setting out agreed standards of practice for elected members, officers and community councillors.

- 5.2 The Community Council Forum requested some changes to the Protocol and they have worked with the Community Council Liaison Officer to produce a document that they feel would be workable for all parties.
- 5.3 Community Councils and the Council have respectively expressed a willingness to tackle the challenges of enabling Community Councils to effectively represent their communities and for the Council to develop a fair and reasonable means of consultation and participation. The attached Protocol sets out the standards for communication and consultation between both parties.

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.

Impact should be positive as this ties in with the Council's commitment to accessible information, provided through a variety of means. We are minded that dissemination of information should not be limited to electronic only.

This report is not considered to have any public interest outwith Community Council members.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

This report aims to eliminate any risk by implementing a protocol between the Council and Community Councils which provides a framework for building relationships between the Council and Community Councils.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Karen Riddoch
Community Council Liaison Officer
kariddoch@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522723