

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE | Council |
| DATE | 13 December 2023 |
| EXEMPT | No |
| CONFIDENTIAL | No |
| REPORT TITLE | Review of Community Council Governance |
| REPORT NUMBER | COM/23/231 |
| DIRECTOR | Gale Beattie |
| CHIEF OFFICER | Vikki Cuthbert |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Karen Finch |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 19 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the responses received during the first stage of public consultation; the Amended Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils including boundary changes for various Community Councils; and to seek approval for the documents to be issued for the second stage of public consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council:-

- 2.1 note the content of the consultation responses and resulting actions as outlined in Appendix 1;
- 2.2 approve the revisions to the Scheme and guidance documents as set out in Appendices 2 and 3;
- 2.3 approve the boundary changes for Kincorth and Leggart and Torry Community Councils as outlined in sections 3.5 and 3.6 of the report and shown within Maps 1 and 2 at Appendix 4.
- 2.4 note that Rosehill and Stockethill Community Council would retain the area at Belmont Gardens, Cedar Court and Belmont Road as outlined in section 3.7 of the report and shown in Map 3 at Appendix 5.
- 2.5 note that consultation on the boundary proposal between Rosehill and Stockethill and Woodside and Hilton Community Councils would be undertaken in stage two.
- 2.6 note that during stage one consultation, Bucksburn and Newhills Community Council submitted an amended boundary proposal as outlined in section 3.9 of the report and shown in Map 4 at Appendix 6 and this would form part of stage two consultation;

- 2.7 note that the second phase of consultation would commence on 18 December 2023 and end on 23 February 2024.
- 2.8 instruct the Chief Officer - Governance to issue a public notice inviting members of the public to comment on the Amended Scheme and associated documents; and
- 2.9 note that a report providing the outcome of the second stage of public consultation and requesting approval of the amended Scheme and boundaries will be submitted to Council in April 2024.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Consultation Responses

- 3.1 Public Consultation on the Scheme, boundary proposals and associated documents commenced on 28 August and ended on 20 October. During this time various drop-in events were organised, whereby members of the public were invited to attend to see the boundary proposals in more detail and the proposed amendments to the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. Attendees were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals either via the website or on paper forms available at the events. In the areas where there were boundary proposals, a door to door exercise was undertaken to seek views on the proposed boundaries.
- 3.2 During the consultation 13 responses were received. Some of those related to Boundary changes and these have been outlined below. The others related to the content within the Scheme and associated documents.
- 3.3 The full list of consultation responses and the actions taken have been included in Appendix 1.

Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils

- 3.4 The Scheme and associated Guidance documents have been amended to take into account the feedback received during the consultation. The documents presented with this report are the amended versions and attached at Appendices 2 and 3.

Boundary Proposals

Kincorth and Leggart, Nigg and Torry

- 3.5 Residents within Abbotswell Road, the area to the left of Wellington Road (currently within Torry CC boundary) were canvassed to seek their views on the boundary proposal. The outcome of the consultation is to transfer that section into Kincorth and Leggart CC boundary, as shown in Map 1 at appendix 4. The new Torry CC boundary is shown in Map 2 at appendix 4.

- 3.6 Residents within Nigg area were canvassed to seek their views on the boundary proposal. The outcome is to retain Nigg as its own CC with a view to working with residents to strengthen the current and future CC. Map 1 at appendix 4 shows the boundary.

Rosehill and Stockethill, Rosemount and Mile End, Woodside and Hilton and George Street

- 3.7 Residents within the Belmont Gardens, Cedar Court and Laurelwood area were canvassed to seek their views on the boundary proposal. The outcome is to retain the area within Rosehill and Stockethill CC boundary. Map 3 at Appendix 5 shows the boundary.

- 3.8 It was not possible to complete the consultation for the proposed boundary change between Rosehill and Stockethill and Woodside and Hilton Community Councils, due to adverse weather conditions, therefore this will carry forward into stage two.

Bucksburn and Newhills and Dyce and Stoneywood

- 3.9 During the consultation, an alternative boundary proposal was submitted by Bucksburn and Newhills Community Council:
To extend the boundary line to encompass the Craibstone round-a-bout and follow the A96 to the boundary with Aberdeenshire Council with the area to the South of A96 and to the West of the AWPR transferring to the Bucksburn and Newhills CC area.

The reason for this would be to prevent Dyce and Stoneywood having a satellite area out with their natural boundary. It would also make it easier for potential members to attend the CC meetings at the Beacon, using the road networks currently within Bucksburn.

The revised proposal would combine option 1, the original proposal and option 2, the amended proposal. These are shown in Map 4 at appendix 6.

- 3.10 It is proposed that during the second phase of public consultation, both options are presented so that the public can provide their views on the boundary proposals. This would help to shape the boundary moving forward.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications from the report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 22 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 outlines the process for amending the Local Authority Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. This section requires that the Council consult the public on proposed changes to the Scheme.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

| Category | Risks | Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level | *Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions | *Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set? |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Strategic Risk | No significant risks identified | | | |
| Compliance | Non compliance with the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and 1994 may result in legal challenge. | To minimise the risk, the Scheme and associated guidance to be issued for public consultation as outlined in the legislation. | L | Yes |
| Operational | Weak governance for Community Councils, may lead to them not being established. | Regular scrutiny will be undertaken to monitor the effectiveness of the new governance documents. | L | Yes |
| Financial | No significant risks identified | | | |
| Reputational | Community Councils not being established or not operating within the Scheme may lead to the Council facing challenge from the public | Working with Community Councils to support them in their roles, to improve relationships and reduce the risk of negative public opinion. | L | Yes |
| Environment / Climate | No significant risks identified | | | |

8. OUTCOMES

| <u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024</u> | |
|---|--|
| | Impact of Report |
| Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u> | <p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement:-</p> <p>Work to strengthen the city's network of community councils and, over time as they acquire greater democratic legitimacy, give them a greater role in Aberdeen's governance.</p> <p>The revised governance documents provides an improved structure for Community Councils to enable them to fulfil their roles and responsibilities, which should strengthen their own capabilities and working towards a full network of skilled volunteers achieving the best outcome for their communities.</p> |

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|--|---|
| Integrated Impact Assessment | Stage 1 completed. Full impact assessment not required |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | Not required |
| Other | None |

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 2018 Aberdeen City Council Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils
- 10.2 Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils including Complaints Procedures for other Local Authorities
- 10.3 Model Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils – Scottish Government

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 - Consultation responses
- 11.2 Appendix 2 - Amended Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils
- 11.3 Appendix 3 - Guidance documents
- 11.4 Appendix 4 – Map 1 - Kincorth and Leggart CC and Nigg CC Map (shown on one map) and Map 2 – Torry CC
- 11.5 Appendix 5 – Map 3 - Rosehill and Stockethill CC Map (Belmont Gardens part)
- 11.6 Appendix 6 – Map 4 - Proposed Bucksburn and Newhills CC Map

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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