

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2013
Meeting: EXECUTIVE
Date: 8 OCTOBER 2013
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the results of the Community Council nomination process and to make recommendations in respect of those Community Councils which failed to attract sufficient nominees to be formed.

2. RESULTS OF THE NOMINATION PROCESS

- 2.1 The timetable for the 2013 Community Council elections was agreed by the Executive on 6 August 2013. This included a nomination period extending from 2 September to 2 October. The table below details the outcome of the nomination process.

Community Council	Nominations Received
Airth Parish	6 nominations for 6 places
Avonbridge and Standburn	5 nominations for 6 places
Banknock, Haggs and Longcroft	7 nominations for 7 places
Blackness	0 nominations for 6 places
Bo'ness	10 nominations for 10 places
Bonnybridge	3 nominations for 8 places
Brightons	4 nominations for 6 places
Camelon, Bantaskine and Tamfourhill	0 nominations for 9 places
Carron and Carronshore	0 nominations for 7 places
Denny and District	8 nominations for 10 places
Falkirk Central	0 nominations for 7 places
Falkirk South	5 nominations for 7 places
Grahamston, Middlefield and Westfield	7 nominations for 8 places
Grangemouth	1 nomination for 12 places
Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron	4 nominations for 8 places
Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood	8 nominations for 11 places
Lower Braes	0 nominations for 7 places
Maddiston	6 nominations for 6 places
Polmont	0 nominations for 7 places
Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone	4 nominations for 6 places
Shieldhill and California	5 nominations for 7 places
Slamannan and Limerigg	0 nomination for 6 places
Whitecross	0 nominations for 6 places

3. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS AND OPTIONS

3.1 The Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils provides that where the number of nominations received is **equal** to the number of vacancies the Community Council is deemed to be established on the day the election would have taken place, had one been necessary. For current purposes, that date would have been 31 October 2013 being the date scheduled for the count in terms of the timetable.

3.2 The following Community Councils will therefore be established on 31 October 2013 as a consequence of the nominations process:

Airth Parish
Banknock, Haggs and Longcroft
Bo'ness
Maddiston

3.3 The first meetings for each of those Community Councils must be held within 21 days of the election ie not later than 21 November 2013.

3.4 Where the number of candidates for election is **fewer** than the number of vacancies the Council may permit the Community Council to treat the unfilled places as casual vacancies or may take such other action as it deems appropriate. Where casual vacancies exist, the Scheme allows Community Councils to co-opt members to fill the vacant positions. Such co-opted members will have full membership status and are appointed for the lifetime of the Community Council. Previous custom and practice has limited the number of co-opted members to not more than one-third of the allowable elected membership.

3.5 With this in mind those Community Councils where the number of nominations was fewer than the vacant positions can be split into two groups.

3.5.1 **Community Councils where nominations for two-thirds or more of the vacancies were received:**

Avonbridge and Standburn	5 nominations for 6 places
Brightons	4 nominations for 6 places
Denny and District	8 nominations for 10 places
Falkirk South	5 nominations for 7 places
Grahamston, Middlefield and Westfield	7 nominations for 8 places
Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood	8 nominations for 11 places
Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone	4 nominations for 6 places
Shieldhill and California	5 nominations for 7 places

3.5.2 As noted above, it has been practice for the Council to permit Community Councils with this level of nominations to be formed and to co-opt members to the remaining vacancies thereafter. The alternative option would be not to allow the Community Councils to be formed at this stage and to extend the nomination period.

3.5.3 Community Councils where the number of nominations is fewer than two-thirds of the number of vacant positions:

Blackness	0 nominations for 6 places
Bonnybridge	3 nominations for 8 places
Camelon, Bantaskine and Tamfourhill	0 nominations for 9 places
Carron and Carronshore	0 nominations for 7 places
Falkirk Central	0 nominations for 7 places
Grangemouth	1 nomination for 12 places
Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron	4 nominations for 8 places
Lower Braes	0 nominations for 7 places
Polmont	0 nominations for 7 places
Slamannan and Limerigg	0 nomination for 6 places
Whitecross	0 nominations for 6 places

3.5.4 At the close of nominations on 2 October 2013 insufficient nominations were received for each of the Community Councils set out in paragraph 3.5.3, to allow them to be formed, in accordance with the Council's previous practice.

3.5.5 The Council undertook an extensive advertising campaign to alert communities to the election process and to the closing date for nominations. Nevertheless, it is open to the Executive to extend the nominations process, if it so wishes, for those Community Councils listed at paragraph 3.5.3, for the purpose of seeking further nominations. Informal discussions with potential nominees suggests that an extension would result in a number of nominations being submitted. The Executive may wish to consider extending the nomination process to 30 October 2013.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Sufficient nominations have been received to form the Community Councils set out in paragraph 3.2. For the remaining Councils, the Executive is asked to consider the options set out in this report.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The Executive is invited to

- (i) note the outcome of the nomination process for the 2013 Community Council elections;**
- (ii) note the formation of the Community Councils referred to in paragraph 3.2 with effect from 31 October 2013;**
- (iii) determine whether to permit formation of the Community Councils referred to in paragraph 3.5.1 with the remaining vacancies being filled by co-option, and**

- (iv) determine whether to extend the nominations period for the Community Councils referred to in paragraph 3.5.3.

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Chief Executive

Date: 7 October 2013

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Background Papers

None.