

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest includes a crown with four maple leaves, a shield divided into four quadrants (top-left: saltire, top-right: anchor, bottom-left: sailing ship, bottom-right: eagle), and a banner at the bottom with the motto 'CITY OF VANCOUVER' in Latin. The text 'AGENDA ITEM' is centered over the top half of the shield.

AGENDA ITEM

7

Community Council Elections 2017 Update

Falkirk Council

Title: Community Council Elections 2017 Update
Meeting: Executive
Date: 28 November 2017
Submitted by: Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 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. Recommendations

2.1 The Executive is invited to:-

- (i) note the outcome of the nomination process for the 2017 community council elections;
- (ii) note the formation of the community councils referred to in paragraph 4.2 with effect from 14 December 2017;
- (iii) determine whether to permit formation of the community councils referred to in paragraph 4.4.1 with the remaining vacancies being filled by co-option;
- (iv) determine whether to extend the nominations period for the community councils referred to in paragraph 4.4.3; and
- (v) to note that an update on the outcome of the processes referred to in (iii) and (iv) above will be submitted to the next meeting.

3. Background

- 3.1 The nomination process for the 2017 quadrennial community council elections closed on 13 November 2017. The table below details the outcome of the nomination process.

Community council	Nominations received
Airth Parish	4 nominations for 6 places
Avonbridge and Standburn	5 nominations for 6 places
Banknock, Haggs and Longcroft	0 nominations for 7 places
Blackness	0 nominations for 6 places
Bo'ness	13 nominations for 10 places
Bonnybridge	6 nominations for 8 places

Brightons	5 nominations for 6 places
Camelon, Bantaskine and Tamfourhill	1 nomination for 9 places
Carron and Carronshore	0 nominations for 7 places
Denny and District	10 nominations for 10 places
Falkirk Central	1 nomination for 7 places
Falkirk South	0 nominations for 7 places
Grahamston, Middlefield and Westfield	0 nominations for 8 places
Grangemouth	10 nominations for 12 places
Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron	0 nominations for 8 places
Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood	2 nominations for 11 places
Lower Braes	0 nominations for 7 places
Maddiston	6 nominations for 6 places
Polmont	4 nominations for 7 places
Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone	0 nominations for 6 places
Shieldhill and California	3 nominations for 7 places
Slamannan and Limerigg	0 nominations for 6 places
Whitecross	0 nominations for 6 places

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The process to establish community councils is two stage and is run in accordance with the Scheme for the Establishment of community councils. The first is to invite nominations. If the number of nominations received equals the number of vacancies then the community council is formed. If the number exceeds the number of vacancies a ballot is held. The election timetable reflects both stages with the day of election set as 14 December 2017. This is the date on which voting papers from any ballots arising from the nomination process will be counted. A ballot is in progress for Bo'ness community council. The Scheme 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 i.e. 14 December 2017.
- 4.2 The following community councils will therefore be established on 14 December 2017:
- Bo'ness (following a ballot)
Denny
Maddiston
- 4.3 Where the number of candidates is **fewer** than the number of vacancies 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 practice has been to allow, at this stage, those community councils with fewer than 1/3 of the positions unfilled to establish and co-opt members to the unfilled places. In terms of the Scheme the number of co-opted members may not exceed 1/3 of the membership.

- 4.4 With this in mind those community councils where the number of nominations was fewer than the vacant positions can be split into two groups.

4.4.1 Community councils where nominations for two-thirds or more of the vacancies were received:

Airth Parish	4 nominations for 6 places
Avonbridge and Standburn	4 nominations for 6 places
Bonnybridge	6 nominations for 8 places
Brightons	5 nominations for 6 places
Grangemouth	10 nominations for 12 places

- 4.4.2 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.

4.4.3 Community councils where the number of nominations is fewer than two-thirds of the number of vacant positions:

Banknock	0 nominations for 7 places
Blackness	0 nominations for 6 places
Camelon, Bantaskine and Tamfourhill	1 nomination for 9 places
Carron and Carronshore	0 nominations for 7 places
Falkirk Central	1 nomination for 7 places
Falkirk South	0 nominations for 7 places
Grahamston, Middlefield and Westfield	0 nominations for 8 places
Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron	0 nominations for 8 places
Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood	2 nominations for 11 places
Lower Braes	0 nominations for 7 places
Polmont	4 nominations for 7 places
Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone	1 nomination for 6 places*
Shieldhill and California	3 nominations for 7 places
Slamannan and Limerigg	0 nomination for 6 places
Whitecross	0 nominations for 6 places

- 4.4.4 At the close of nominations on 13 November 2017 insufficient nominations were received for each of the community councils set out in paragraph 4.4.3, to allow them to be formed, in accordance with the Council's previous practice. A late application was received for Reddingmuirhead. Should the Executive extend the nomination process this will be accepted as competently received.

- 4.4.5 The Council undertook an 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 4.4.3, for the purpose of seeking further nominations. Informal discussions with potential nominees suggest that an extension would result in a number of nominations being submitted. The

Executive may wish to consider extending the nomination process to 18 December 2017.

5. Consultation

No consultation was required.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 Extending the nomination process would incur costs, for advertising, which would be met from budget.

Resources

- 6.2 There are no significant resource implications arising from the recommendations.

Legal

- 6.3 There are no legal implications.

Risk

- 6.4 There are no risks arising from the recommendations.

Equalities

- 6.5 There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 There are no sustainability/environment impacts.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Following the community council nomination process, which closed on 13 November 2017, 3 community councils will form. This leaves 20 community council areas with no established community councils. The report sets out options to allow 5 community councils to fill outstanding vacancies and form and to extend the nomination process in the case of the remaining 15 community council areas.

Chief Executive

Author – Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager, 01324 506110; email
brian.pirie@falkirk.gov.uk

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Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

No papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.