

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: a saltire, top-right: a stag's head, bottom-left: a sailing ship, bottom-right: an eagle), and a banner at the bottom with the motto 'A NE FOR A'.

AGENDA ITEM

7

Community Council Elections 2017 Update

Falkirk Council

Title: Community Council Elections 2017 Update
Meeting: Executive
Date: 13 February 2018
Submitted by: Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the results of the extended nomination period for those community councils which failed to secure 2/3 of the nominations required to form in November 2017 and to make recommendations in respect of the 14 community councils in question.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Executive is invited to:-

- (i) note the outcome of the extended nomination process for the 2017 community council elections;**
- (ii) note the formation of the 3 community councils referred to in paragraph 4.2 with effect from 18 December 2017;**
- (iii) determine whether to permit formation of the 2 community councils referred to in paragraph 4.3 with the remaining vacancies being filled by co-option;**
- (iv) accept the late nominations received in respect of the Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood community council and allow the community council to form with the remaining vacancies being filled by co-option;**
- (v) agree that the 8 remaining community councils referred to in paragraph 4.4 have not formed as part of the 2017 nomination process; and**
- (vi) re-establish the policy development panel on community councils to conclude its work and consider any further changes necessary to the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Executive considered a report on the outcome of the 2017 quadrennial community council elections process in November 2017. Of the 23 community councils in the Falkirk area, 3 received sufficient nominations to fill the available places and to form. These were Bo'ness (following an election), Denny & District, and Maddiston. The Executive agreed to allow a further 6

community councils to form on the condition that they co-opt sufficient members to fill the outstanding vacancies by the end of January 2018. The remaining 14 community councils attracted less than 2/3 of the required nominations.

In the case of these community councils the Executive agreed to extend the nomination period to 18 December 2017 to allow further nominations to be made. These were:-

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
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. Considerations

- 4.1 The extended nomination period ran until 18 December 2017. The process was advertised on the Council website, using twitter and through on the ground activity with nominees who wished to see community councils form in their area (for example nominees in Shieldhill and California issued flyers to all residents calling for support in forming their community council). The outcome of the extended nomination period is set out below.

Banknock	7 nominations for 7 places
Blackness	6 nominations for 6 places
Camelon, Bantaskine and Tamfourhill	3 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	7 nominations for 8 places
Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron	0 nominations for 8 places
Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood	6 nominations for 11 places
Lower Braes	0 nominations for 7 places
Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone	4 nomination for 6 places

Shieldhill and California	7 nominations for 7 places
Slamannan and Limerigg	0 nomination for 6 places
Whitecross	0 nominations for 6 places

- 4.2 Accordingly 3 community councils have formed as a result of the extended nomination period. These are:-

Banknock
Blackness
Shieldhill and California

- 4.3 Additionally, Grahamston, Middlefield and Westfield and Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone have now attracted sufficient nominations to fill 2/3 of their memberships. Previously, the Executive permitted community councils where nominations were received to fill two-thirds or more of the vacancies to form and to co-opt to the remaining places. It is recommended that these community councils are allowed to form and to co-opt to their full membership.

- 4.4 The following 9 community councils did not attract any or insufficient nominations to achieve 2/3 membership:-

Camelon, Bantaskine and Tamfourhill	3 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
Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron	0 nominations for 8 places
Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood	6 nominations for 11 places
Lower Braes	0 nominations for 7 places
Slamannan and Limerigg	0 nomination for 6 places
Whitecross	0 nominations for 6 places

- 4.5 Previously, those community councils which, after an extended nomination period, continue to attract insufficient nominees to form, even with co-option, were deemed to have not formed. Subsequent to the close of the extended nomination period (on 16 January 2018) a further 2 nominations were received for Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood community council. Should the Executive allow these to be accepted then 8 nominations will have been received for 11 places, exceeding the general 2/3 requirement to allow community councils to form and co-opt the remaining members.

- 4.6 It is recommended that in the case of the remaining 8 community councils set out in 4.1.4 above, the Executive determines these community councils to have not formed. While it is disappointing that there will be no community councils in 8 of the 23 area, only 3 of these areas have had community councils in place in recent years (Falkirk South, Langlees, Bainsford and New

Carron, and Lower Braes). The Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils sets out a process to establish community councils to form in such areas in the period between quadrennial elections. On receipt of a petition signed by 20 or more electors in the community council area calling for a community council to be formed, the Returning Officer will seek nominations from the community with a view to establishing a community council in the area.

- 4.7 Following discussion at the meeting of Council on 6 December 2017, the Executive is also asked to consider re-establishing the policy development panel on community councils. The panel which sat prior to the last elections made good progress in relation to reviewing the current Scheme and setting out recommendations in regard to support for community councils. There would be benefit in building on work, but in addition reviewing the Scheme in light of the experience of the most recent nomination process and in the context of the Local Governance Review.

5. Consultation

No consultation was required.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 Minimal additional costs were incurred by extending the nomination period, for example in printing flyers, and these will be met from within the current 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 extension of the nomination period a further 3 community councils have formed, 3 may form if the Executive so agrees and 8 will not form and be inactive

Chief Executive

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Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

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