

**MINUTE**  
of  
**EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Minute of Special Meeting held at 6.45pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 24 June 2015.**

**Present:**

Provost Alastair Carmichael	Councillor Gordon McCaskill
Councillor Tony Buchanan	Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Danny Devlin	Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)	Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Charlie Gilbert	Councillor Tommy Reilly
Councillor Elaine Green	Councillor Ralph Robertson
Councillor Kenny Hay	Councillor Jim Swift
Councillor Alan Lafferty	Councillor Vincent Waters
Councillor Ian McAlpine	

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

**Attending:**

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Julie Murray, Director of CHCP; Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Iain McLean, Head of Environment (Planning, Property and Regeneration); Gillian McCarney, Planning and Building Standards Manager; Jamie Reid, Community Resources Manager; Richard Greenwood and Julie Nicol, Principal Planners; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Ron Leitch, Committee Services Officer.

**Apologies:**

Deputy Provost Betty Cunningham and Councillors Barbara Grant and Gordon Wallace.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1607.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT – STAGE 3 CONSULTATION FINDINGS AND NEXT STEPS**

**1608.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Council of 25 March 2015 (Page 1377, Item 1458 refers), when the Council agreed that the Stage 3 consultation of the Review of the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils should be initiated, the

Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive setting out the findings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of the consultation process and making recommendations for the next stage of the review.

The report explained that the Council had agreed to review the current Scheme on 23 October 2013. The review was a three stage process set out in legislation and in total there had been 29 weeks of consultation with a wide range of opportunities for stakeholders to comment on the proposals. Stage 1 (seeking feedback on whether and how the Scheme could usefully be amended) ran from February to April 2014 and Stage 2 (public notice of the Council's proposals to amend the Scheme) from 6 October 2014 until 12 January 2015. The Stage 3 consultation (public notice of the proposals as further amended to take account of representations made at Stage 2) ran from 7 April to 12 May with the scope of this final stage being limited to the ten material proposed changes to the version of the Scheme that was the basis of consultation during Stage 2. At all stages, East Renfrewshire Council had exceeded the statutory timescales for consultation.

The report went on to outline the responses obtained during each of the stages of the review and to explain that it was proposed that a small number of minor changes should be made to the Scheme following the Stage 3 consultation to improve the clarity of the Scheme in relation to co-option and interim elections, as outlined in paragraph 14 of the report. This would ensure that the Scheme clearly reflected the proposal made at Stages 2 and 3.

The report concluded by explaining that having completed the three statutory stages of consultation, engaging over 1,000 residents, current and former community council members, Elected Members and Council and partner organisation staff, the Council was now being asked to agree to an amended Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils for implementation. A draft outline timeframe for the amendment of the Scheme was annexed to the report.

Responding to comments and questions from a number of Members with regards to the proposed Scheme including, amongst others, with respect to issues relating to the proposal to rotate community council Chairs at least every two years and the requirement for nominees to submit a statement of no more than 250 words setting out their reasons for wishing to serve on a community council, the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services, supported by the Community Resources Manager, explained that the proposed Scheme aimed to build the resilience of community councils and make them more attractive to new members with a view to opening them up to a wider and more diverse membership. He went on to explain that the purpose behind the nomination statement was to generate interest in community councils and to help voters know something of the background and motivation of those seeking election. Responding to the suggestion that a number of areas would be unable to attract sufficient members to form a community council, he explained that provision existed within the Scheme for the co-option of up to one third of the membership.

Councillor Swift stated that a number of existing community councils considered the proposed Scheme to be unfit for purpose and demonstrated again that the Council was not listening to the wishes of the community. He also commented on the proposal to impose a timetable on the election process which would be affected by the forthcoming holiday period. In reply the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services drew attention to the indicative timeline set out in the report which clearly indicated that the process commenced following the date on which the proposed Scheme came into effect, currently anticipated to be 12 August 2015, with elections, either contested or uncontested, spanning the period from late September until mid-November.

Following further brief discussion, Councillor Montague, seconded by Councillor Hay, proposed that the recommendations at set out in the report be approved. Councillor Swift, seconded by Councillor Miller tabled an amendment to retain the existing Scheme of Establishment for Community Council.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that under the terms of legislation in respect of amendments to community council schemes of establishment for the motion to be carried a two thirds majority of those Members voting was required.

On a vote being taken 12 Members voted for the motion and 5 Members voted for the amendment. The motion was declared carried and the Council agreed to:-

- (a) note the findings of the Stage 3 consultation as outlined in the report and Annex 1;
- (b) amend the Scheme as set out in Annex 2, incorporating the final changes as noted in Paragraph 15 of the report;
- (c) note that the amended Scheme would take effect on 12 August 2015; and
- (d) delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive to set the date on which the first elections are to be held in accordance with Clause 6.2.1 of the amended Scheme.

PROVOST

