

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held at 6.45pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 25 March 2015.

Present:

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

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Julie Murray, Director of Community Health and Care Partnership; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officers); Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Andy Corry, Head of Environment (Environmental Services and Roads); David Miller, Head of Revenue Services; Jamie Reid, Community Resources Manager; Ralston MacKenzie, Roads and Transportation Controller (Traffic); Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Paul O’Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Deputy Provost Betty Cunningham; and Councillors Jim Swift and Gordon Wallace.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1457. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT – STAGE 2
FEEDBACK, REVISED SCHEME AND INITIATION OF STAGE 3**

1458. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Council of 23 October 2013 (Page 727, Item 760 refers), when the Council agreed that the existing Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils be opened up for Review, the Council considered a

report by the Deputy Chief Executive, setting out the findings from the Stage 2 consultation of the Review of the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils, highlighting proposed changes and seeking approval to initiate the third and final stage of the consultation process.

The report explained that the review was a three stage process which was set out in legislation. Stage 1 had been carried out from February to April 2014 and Stage 2 from 6 October 2014 until 12 January 2015. It was noted that the consultation processes for Stages 1 and 2 had been robust and in-depth in nature, and incorporated a range of feedback mechanisms such as social research, independent review, evening events, and both online and paper surveys involving over 12,000 individuals across East Renfrewshire. The findings from both stages had been incorporated into proposed changes to the Scheme and further clarity would be provided around specific points as outlined in the feedback summary which appeared as Annex 3 to the report. The Scheme document which appeared as Annex 2 to the report had been revised and met the necessary requirements.

The report highlighted that the new Scheme would enable community councils and the Council to strengthen working relationships, increase local community representation, establish firmer procedures to address issues, develop robust governance processes and ensure more support was provided to community councils, in line with the review criteria set out at the start of the process.

Councillor McCaskill whilst noting that the proposal for the term of office of a Chair would increase from 1 year to 2 years as a maximum, suggested that once a Chair had completed their term of office they should not be prevented from assuming a similar role in the future.

In reply, the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services explained that the proposed change was to encourage fluidity within community councils and that the proposed increase in the term of a Chair was as a result of the feedback the Council had received during the consultation exercise.

Further comment was made by Councillors McCaskill and O'Kane on the proposals relating to the term of appointment of the Chair and the potential challenges this would bring, in response to which the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services supported by Councillor Montague outlined in further detail the reasoning behind the proposals.

In reply to a question by Councillor Robertson as to whether an individual had to submit up to 250 words as part of the nomination process, the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services stated that the proposal would assist the nomination process by providing more details about a prospective community councillor.

Councillor McAlpine stated that he welcomed the terms of the report and that the information that the Council had received from the local community had been positive and that the proposed scheme would help people and hopefully encourage them to get involved in the work of community councils.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the findings of the Stage 2 consultation as outlined in the report;
- (b) approved the summary of proposed changes in Annex 1 and proposed revised Scheme and associated documentation in Annex 2 as the basis for Stage 3 of the consultation process; and

- (c) approved and authorised Stage 3 as outlined in the indicative timeline which appeared as Annex 5 to the report.

PROVOST

