

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

**Minute of Special Meeting held at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 24 September 2014.**

**Present:**

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

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

**Attending:**

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Iain MacLean, Head of Environment (Planning, Property and Regeneration); Jamie Reid, Community Resources Manager; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Linda Hutchison, Senior Committee Services Officer.

**Apology:**

Councillor Gordon McCaskill.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1195.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT – REVISED DRAFT SCHEME AND STAGE 2 CONSULTATION**

**1196.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Council of 25 June 2014 (Page 1084, Item 1122 refers), when the Council noted the findings from the Stage 1 research and consultation exercise and approved both the proposals and timescales for taking forward the review, the Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval of a draft revised Scheme of Establishment based on the Stage 1 consultation findings and seeking approval to initiate the Stage 2 consultation process. A copy of the draft Scheme accompanied the report, together with appendices comprising a model constitution for community councils, model Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, boundary maps, and a community council elections nomination form.

Full discussion on the terms of the draft Scheme followed in the course of which the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services in response to Councillor Wallace confirmed that there were no proposals to discontinue the practice of providing community councils with an annual administrative allowance.

He also clarified in response to comments about the publication by the Council of draft community council minutes prior to their approval at subsequent community councils that these draft Minutes were requested to allow the Council to respond promptly to any issues raised at community council meetings. However he explained that as part of the next stage of the review if there appeared to be a view that Minutes should not be provided to the Council until finalised then this could be taken into account in the development of the final version of the Scheme.

Councillor Miller having commented on proposals to create smaller community councils in some areas and also the potential difficulties that may be faced by some community councils if the proposals that the position of Chair should only be held for 1 year were implemented, Councillor Grant suggested it would be helpful if the Scheme made it clear that councillors, as ex-officio community council members, were under no obligation to attend community council meetings. Councillor Grant also welcomed proposals to create smaller community councils in the Newton Mearns area.

Further comment was made on the provision of draft Minutes to the Council in the course of which Councillor Swift suggested that a compromise may be that the draft Minutes were still provided to the Council but that they were not published until approved. Commenting on proposals to introduce smaller community councils in the Newton Mearns area, he suggested that Newton Mearns was a natural community and that he was not convinced that reducing the size of the community council would help to address the issue of a lack of participation by residents.

Councillor McAlpine having welcomed the draft Scheme, in particular the introduction of training and a Code of Conduct for community councillors, Councillor Lafferty expressed support for the proposals to create smaller community councils in some areas. He suggested that community councils needed to be of a size where they were able to accurately reflect the views of their local community and that if they became too large this could not be achieved.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the feedback received during Stage 1 of the consultation process and the influence this had on the new draft Scheme;
- (b) approved the draft Scheme, associated documentation and boundary maps as the basis for the next stage of consultation; and
- (c) approved that the next stage of the consultation be undertaken.

PROVOST

