



To: **Forum for Empowering Our Communities**

On: **1 September 2015**

Report by:
Director of Finance & Resources

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report advises that the process of electing members to community councils in Renfrewshire will commence on 1 September 2015.
- 1.2 A Public Notice in local newspapers week commencing 31 August will announce that community council elections to fill membership places are under way. Information about these elections will also be available on the Council's website and advertised on Facebook and Twitter. Existing community councils will receive publicity material to promote the election and raise awareness in their local area.
- 1.3 Candidates for membership of community councils must complete and return a nomination form to the Council by 30 September 2015.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note that the 4-yearly, Council-wide elections to community councils will commence on 1 September 2015.

3. Background

- 3.1 In terms of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils 2015 (the Scheme) setting out the provisions to be made for community councils in Renfrewshire, elections to fill membership places on community councils must be held every four years. The last elections were held in April 2011 and the election of members to community councils for the next four year term (2015 – 2019) is scheduled to commence on 1 September 2015.



- 3.2 Foxbar & Brediland Community Council is exempt from this election on the grounds that it was newly-established on 29 June 2015 following a local election in that area. Its members will serve until the next election in 2019 and can seek re-election at that time.
- 3.5 As soon as possible after the 30 September 2015, all candidates who have submitted a valid nomination form will be advised the outcome, viz:
- Where the number of candidates is more than the minimum membership places available, but less than the maximum, candidates will be deemed to have been elected unopposed;
 - Where the number of candidates is less than the minimum number of membership places, no community council will be established; or
 - Where the number of candidates exceeds the maximum number of membership places, a Ballot, on a date to be determined by the Head of Corporate Governance, will be arranged as soon as possible to allow residents to select their representatives. Candidates will be advised of these arrangements in due course.
- 3.6 There are currently 283 community council members in Renfrewshire.

4. Community Involvement/Engagement

- 4.1 Community councils can act as a voice for their local area by articulating the views and concerns of local people on a wide range of issues and by make representations to the Council and its community partners on matters within those agencies sphere of interest. In this way, community councils strengthen democratic representation at a local level, encourage community spirit and resilience, and engender civic pride.

Anne McNaughton, Senior Committee Services Officer (Community Councils)

Telephone: 0141 618 7104

Email: anne.mcnaughton@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov