

Agenda item 4

To: Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside and Erskine Local Area Committee

On: 25 November 2015

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: Community Council Elections - Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report advises that 21 community councils have been established until 2019 following the 4-yearly elections held throughout Renfrewshire to return members.
- 1.2 A total of 308 residents are now members of their local community councils. Of these, 122 are new members engaged in representing their communities for the first time.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be noted.
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3. Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on 3 September 2015, the Local Area Committee noted that 4-yearly elections would take place during September 2015 to return members to community councils throughout Renfrewshire. It was also noted that Foxbar & Brediland Community Council area was exempt from the Council-wide election, given that it had only recently been established and had returned 18 members following a local election in that area.

- 3.2 The elections were conducted in accordance with the method set out in the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils (the Scheme) approved by the Council in February 2015. The Scheme details the minimum and maximum number of members required to establish each community council as a viable concern.
- 3.3 The undernoted table lists the 21 community councils that by the close of the election period on 30 September 2015 had achieved the minimum number of members required in order to be established for the next 4 years to 2019.

Table 1 – Community Council Election Outcome 2015

| Community Council | <i>Minimum Members</i> | <i>Maximum Members</i> | Members Elected |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bishopton | 10 | 30 | 15 |
| Bridge of Weir | 7 | 21 | 13 |
| Brookfield | 7 | 21 | 10 |
| Elderslie | 10 | 30 | 11 |
| Erskine | 10 | 30 | 16 |
| Foxbar & Brediland* | 10 | 30 | 18 |
| Gallowhill | 10 | 30 | 10 |
| Hawkhead & Lochfield | 10 | 30 | 16 |
| Houston | 10 | 30 | 17 |
| Howwood | 7 | 21 | 19 |
| Inchinnan | 7 | 21 | 12 |
| Johnstone | 10 | 30 | 15 |
| Kilbarchan | 7 | 21 | 16 |
| Langbank | 7 | 21 | 15 |
| Linwood | 10 | 30 | 15 |
| Lochwinnoch | 7 | 21 | 20 |
| Paisley East & Whitehaugh | 10 | 30 | 12 |
| Paisley North | 7 | 21 | 7 |
| Paisley West & Central | 10 | 30 | 17 |
| Ralston | 7 | 21 | 13 |
| Renfrew | 10 | 30 | 21 |
| | | | 308 |

(*The table also includes the result of the local Foxbar & Brediland Community Council election held in June 2105).

- 3.4 A combined total of 308 residents are now members of their local community councils. Including the recently-elected members of Foxbar & Brediland Community Council, some 122 residents are engaged in representing their communities for the first time. 186 members were re-elected having served as members during 2011-2015. (Prior to this election, 284 residents were members of their local community councils).

- 3.5 As the number of candidates for election to each community council did not exceed the maximum required, no Ballots were held and consequently all members of community councils were elected “unopposed”.
- 3.6 Only 5 candidates came forward for election to Glenburn Community Council (minimum 10 required) and only 1 candidate came forward for election to Hunterhill Community Council (minimum 7 required). Finance & Resources will continue to assist residents in these two previously active areas to form viable community councils.
- 3.7 There are no active community councils in the Charleston or Craigielea community council areas. Residents who are interested in setting up community councils in these two areas are encouraged to contact the author of this report for advice and guidance.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – none.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none.
3. **Community Planning** –
Empowering our Communities - Community councils can act as a voice for their local area by articulating the views and concerns of residents 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.
4. **Legal** – none.
5. **Property/Assets** – none.
6. **Information Technology** - none.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals’ human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council’s website.
8. **Health & Safety** – none.

- 9. **Procurement**.- none.
 - 10. **Risk** – none.
 - 11. **Privacy Impact** – none.
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List of Background Papers

- (a) Report to Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside and Erskine Local Area Committee on 2 September 2015 – Community Council Elections 2015.
- (b) Scheme for the Establishment of Community Council 2015.

The foregoing background papers will be retained by Finance & Resources for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Anne McNaughton, Senior Committee Services Officer
anne.mcnaughton@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk

Author: Anne McNaughton, Senior Committee Services Officer
 0141 618 7104
 anne.mcnaughton@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk