

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Special Council: 26 January 2011

Subject: Review of Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to progress the review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils.

2. Background

2.1 The Scottish Government has produced a model scheme of establishment for community councils supported by other model documentation which it wishes to promote for adoption throughout Scotland.

2.2 At its meeting on 24 February 2010, the Council noted the statutory framework and the indicative timetable for the review of the scheme.

2.3 At its meeting on 24 March 2010, the Council agreed to adopt the model scheme in principle, together with the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors, subject to the statutory consultation arrangements, and noted that the outcome of the consultation would be submitted to a future meeting for further review.

2.4 The first phase of the consultation concluded on 28 May 2010 and a number of responses were received from Community Councils in respect of the Model Constitution (Appendix 2 to the Scheme) and the proposed boundaries (Appendix 5 to the Scheme).

2.5 At its meeting on 27 October 2010, the Council considered the responses received in respect of the first consultation period and agreed a final draft amended scheme for consultation (as appended to this report). The second consultation period of 8 weeks closed on 31 December 2010 and only one response was received from Balloch and Haldane Community Council in respect of the written description of its boundary and that of the Alexandria Community Council boundary.

2.6 The next stage of the process is for public notice to be given of the “final draft amended scheme” with a further consultation period of 4 weeks, until 4 March 2011. Thereafter the scheme will be presented to a further Special Meeting of Council for formal approval.

3. Main Issues

Boundary Issues

- 3.1** Balloch and Haldane Community Council have indicated that the written description of its boundary and that of the Alexandria Community Council boundary does not match the boundary lines depicted in the map produced by the Council.
- 3.2** A meeting was held with the Secretary of Balloch and Haldane Community Council to clarify the situation and it has been confirmed that the written description of the two boundary lines does match the existing boundary lines as depicted on the Council's map of community council boundaries. Given that this does not represent a change to the existing boundaries, revised descriptions have been prepared in consultation with an officer from the Council's Planning Section and the Secretary of the Balloch and Haldane Community Council, as shown below. However, Members are asked to note that it has been necessary to refer to some national map grid references to identify certain points of the boundary lines where descriptive points of reference were not sufficient to identify the exact point of the boundary line.

Revised Written Description for Balloch and Haldane Community Council Boundary

- 3.3** Commencing at the northern shoreline boundary of Balloch Park and Loch Lomond, where Balloch Burn enters Loch Lomond, then generally south eastwards in a straight line to a point in Loch Lomond at Grid Ref: NS 38080 83671; then generally southwards to the confluence of an un-named burn and Loch Lomond at Grid Ref: NS 38424 82360; then generally south westwards and westwards along the said burn to its intersection with the A82(T) at Grid Ref: NS 37923 81969; then generally southwards in a straight line to the centre point of the Stoneymollan roundabout; then generally eastwards along the A811, dissecting the Balloch roundabout and continuing to the intersection with the River Leven at Lomond Bridge; then generally southwards along the River Leven to the junction of the prolongation of Auchincarroch Road and said river; then following said road north-eastwardly to an un-named track to Mill of Haldane; following this track north-westwardly to the junction with the Carrochan Burn (Grid Ref: NS 41148 81559); then generally northwards following the track to the housing estate of Mill of Haldane at the junction with Dumbain Crescent, then north-eastwards along the rear curtilage of the estate and Haldane Terrace; then continuing generally north-eastwards along the A811 Stirling road to Ballochmyle (Grid Ref: NS 40303 82968); then generally westwards on road to the access road to Balloch Park (North Lodge); then northwards on the Boturich Road to the northern boundary of Balloch Park; then following the northern boundary of said park to shoreline of Loch Lomond to the point of commencement.

Revised Written Description for Alexandria Community Council Boundary

- 3.4 Commencing at a point in Loch Lomond (Grid Ref: NS 39746 83867) then south westwards in a straight line to Duck Bay (Grid Ref: NS 37431 83354) and then generally south westwards to the end of Tank Wood and then south eastwards to Grid Ref: NS 36578 82414; then south westwards to the edge of Darleith Muir (Grid Ref: NS 36076 81982) then generally north westwards to Grid Ref: NS 34691 82640 and then south westwards to Grid Ref: NS 34238 82060; then following the Administrative Boundary of West Dunbartonshire Council to the boundary of Renton Community Council (Grid Ref: NS 36903 79669) and generally eastwards towards Vale of Leven Cemetery (Grid Ref: NS 38338 79743) and following the road until it meets the A82 By-Pass (Grid Ref: NS 38685 79916), then generally north following the A82 until Grid Ref: 38575 80279, then north eastwards along Park Street towards the junction of Main Street, Alexandria and then southwards down Main Street until the junction with Church Street to Grid Ref: NS 39325 79999, then due north following the railway line to Grid Ref: NS 39311 80276, and then following the River Leven north to the Bridge at Lomond Road, then west on Lomond Road until it reaches the Stoneymollan Roundabout, then northward along A82 until Grid Ref: NS 37927 81958, and then generally northeast to an un-named burn and then following the burn north eastwards to Drumkinnon Bay (Grid Ref: NS 38422 82361) and then generally north westwards until the point of commencement via Grid Ref: NS 38434 82955.

4. People Implications

- 4.1 There are no adverse personnel issues associated with this report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 At this stage, the costs to the Council of the Review relate to the advertising costs for the statutory notices which will be met from within the existing Community Council budgets.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1 Implementation of the scheme reduces the reputational risk to the Council which otherwise would continue to operate a scheme which is inconsistent with the new model preferred by the Scottish Government.

7. Equalities Impact

- 7.1 The model scheme identifies the need to encourage young people and other under-represented groups to participate in community council meetings and to ensure equality of opportunity in the way the community council carries out its functions.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8.1** The proposed changes to the written description of the boundaries of Balloch and Haldane and Alexandria Community Councils does not change the existing boundary lines but provides further detail and clarity which is necessary to ensure that the boundaries can be clearly identified.
- 8.2** It is therefore recommended that Appendix 5 of the final draft scheme be amended to include the revised written descriptions as shown in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 above and that the revised final draft scheme be published for public consultation in accordance with the statutory framework, as outlined in paragraph 2.6 of the report.

.....
Joyce White
Executive Director of Corporate Services

Date: 6 January 2011

Person to Contact: George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services. Tel: (01389) 737204. e-mail: george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Background papers: Reports by the Executive Director of Corporate Services to the Meetings of Council on 24 February 2010. 24 March 2010 and 27 October 2010.

Appendix: Revised Draft Scheme of Establishment, includes 5 appendices, as follows:-

- 1) Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.
- 2) Model Constitution.
- 3) Model Standing Orders.
- 4) List of designated Community Councils.
- 5) Description of Community Council boundaries.

Wards Affected: All.