

REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: COMMUNITY COUNCILS: 30 TH ANNIVERSARY
From: HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES		
Date: 7 August 2007	Ref: JAF/IL	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report refers to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Community Councils and makes recommendations regarding the recognition of that anniversary.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 made provision for the establishment of Community Councils. The Act specified the primary purpose of Community Councils to be to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authority and to other public authorities the views of the community they represent and to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to be expedient and practicable.
- 2.2 In accordance with the requirements of the 1973 Act, Schemes for the establishment of Community Councils were formulated by the former District Councils – Cumbernauld & Kilsyth, Monklands, Motherwell and Strathkelvin District Councils – and, in accordance with those Schemes, Community Councils were first established in 1977.
- 2.3 On the reorganisation of local government, North Lanarkshire Council reviewed the Schemes formulated by the District Councils and, on the basis of that review, formulated the North Lanarkshire Scheme for Community Councils which was subsequently reviewed in 2000. The current Scheme makes provision for 80 Community Councils, a significant number of which serve the same areas and communities as were first identified in the original District Council Schemes.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 There are now, in existence, 39 Community Councils of which a significant number have been in existence throughout the period of 30 years since Community Councils have first been established. Against that background, and having regard to the importance attached by the Council to the role and contribution made by Community Councils, it is proposed that the Council recognise this anniversary.
- 3.2 The proposal is that the Convener host a dinner to which would be invited the Chair and Secretary of each Community Council within North Lanarkshire. It is proposed, also, that invitations to that event be extended, also, to any Community Councillor who is neither the Chair nor Secretary of the Community Council but who has served as a Community Councillor throughout the 30 years since the establishment of Community Councils.

4. **Recommendation**

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee give consideration to the foregoing proposal.

J. O. Young

Head of Central Services

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.