

# NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS	
From: HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES		
Date: 22 October 2009	Ref: TG/MR	

### 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is (1) to advise of the receipt of further guidance from the Scottish Government on arrangements for the implementation of recommendations contained in the joint communiqué by the Scottish Government, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Association of Scottish Community Councils following the review of Community Councils which was reported to a previous meeting of the Committee and (2) to seek authority to initiate a public consultation exercise on the proposals.

### 2. Background

- 2.1. At a meeting of the Corporate Services Committee on 21 May 2009 consideration was given to a report advising Members of the receipt of a Model Scheme for Community Councils, together with associated documents and a Code of Conduct for Community Councillors, details of which were contained in a series of Appendices attached to the report.
- 2.2. Consequently the Committee noted the position and agreed to await further guidance from the Scottish Government prior to consideration of a further report and this guidance was received on 7<sup>th</sup> October.
- 2.3. In the light of that communiqué, and the guidance now received, it is proposed to amend the North Lanarkshire Scheme but only to the extent that it accords with the new model Scheme, including the new model constitution and the Community Councillors Code of Conduct.

### 3. Model Scheme and associated documents

- 3.1. To a considerable extent the new proposals reflect the arrangements in the North Lanarkshire Scheme and accordingly the following address only certain areas that supplement the current arrangements.

#### 3.1.1. Membership

- 3.1.1.1 That the minimum age for membership to a Community Council in North Lanarkshire be lowered to 16 years and likewise to lower the age for proposers and seconders to 16.
- 3.1.1.2 That a new category of Ex-officio member be created to include Local Authority Councillors, Members of the Scottish Parliament, Members of UK Parliament or Members of the European Parliament. Such members will have no voting rights, nor will they be counted for the purpose of a quorum at a meeting, or be included in the total membership numbers of a Community Council.

- 3.1.1.3 That the number of co-opted members should not exceed one third of the overall membership.
- 3.1.1.4 That non-voting Associate Members be accorded a form of membership of Community Councils and the Scheme be amended accordingly. These persons may include individuals who offer a specialist skill or expertise, or who may be under the age of 16. Such Members will not be included for the purposes of a quorum or be included in the total membership numbers of a Community Council.

- 3.2 That a National Scheme of Insurance Liability for Community Council members be introduced. This will become effective upon the local authority advising the appointed insurance underwriter of the establishment of a Community Council.

#### 4 Corporate Considerations

There are no adverse financial, legal or property corporate implications arising from this report.

#### 5 Recommendations

- 5.1 That it be recommended to the Council that public notice be given of proposals to amend the North Lanarkshire Scheme for Community Councils to the extent necessary to accord with the new model Scheme and associated documents and inviting Community Councils and the public to make representations with regard to those proposals, and
- 5.2 That the report be otherwise noted.

*4/12/07*  
*Y. Young*

**Head of Central Services**