

# North Lanarkshire Council

## Report

### Finance and Resources Committee



approval



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Ref: CJ/RM

Date: 13 March 2019

### Community Council Quadrennial Elections

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#### Executive Summary

This report advises of the proposed arrangements for the Community Council Quadrennial Elections in terms of the North Lanarkshire Council Scheme for Community Councils.

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#### Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to approve the proposed date, when Community Council members will be requested to stand down, be set for Monday, 7 October 2019.

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#### Supporting Documents

**Council business plan to 2020:** Improving relationships with communities and the Third Sector.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1. At a meeting of the Council in March 2011 the Council adopted the North Lanarkshire Council Scheme for Community Councils.
  - 1.2. The Scheme outlines the regulation of Community Councils and Community Councillors, specifies areas where Community Councils are to be established, provides details as to composition of membership, outlines the arrangements for the ordinary election of Community Council members (including the co-option of members to Councils), specifies arrangements for AGMs and EGMs and makes a number of other general provisions as to their establishment, finance and dissolution.
  - 1.3. The Council has also approved a Code of Conduct for Community Councillors and a Model Constitution and Standing Orders for the conduct of Community Council meetings.
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## 2. **Report**

- 2.1. In terms of the Scheme, Community Council members are required to stand down every four years, with the right to be nominated for a further term of office.
- 2.2. In terms of the Scheme, the Council's Returning Officer for this purpose is required to make the necessary arrangements for the re-constitution of Community Councils and, where necessary, to make arrangements for elections where the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies for members on the Community Councils.
- 2.3. In this regard, a date requires to be identified when members of Community Councils shall stand down, in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to enable the election process to Community Councils to be initiated.
- 2.4. For the purpose of the elections in 2019, it is proposed that the date on which Community Council members shall stand down shall be Monday, 7 October 2019 at 11.59 pm.
- 2.5. If the requisite number of valid nomination forms in terms of the Scheme are received from a Community Council, that Community Council will continue to operate as from Tuesday, 8 October 2019. Where the number of validly submitted nominations exceeds the number of directly elected vacancies on a Community Council, it will be necessary to organise an election, and polling, by way of a secret ballot, will take place locally.
- 2.6. If, however, insufficient nominations are received for any Community Council, that Community Council will cease to operate from 8 October 2019 and, in order to re-establish that Community Council, it will be necessary that a petition seeking re-establishment be lodged with North Lanarkshire Council in terms of the Scheme for Community Councils.
- 2.7. Prior to 7 October 2019, letters will be issued to Community Councils providing further details of the process for elections and the nomination of candidates, together with other relevant information.
- 2.8. Formal notice of the Establishment of Community Councils will be placed in all local newspapers, within public libraries and published on the Council's website.

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## 3. **Equality and Diversity**

### 3.1. **Fairer Scotland**

Not applicable.

### 3.2. **Equality Impact Assessment**

Not applicable.

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4. **Implications**

4.1. **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact.

4.2. **HR/Policy/Legislative Impact**

There is no HR/Policy/legislative impact.

4.3. **Environmental Impact**

There is no environmental impact.

4.4. **Risk Impact**

There is no risk impact.

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5. **Measures of Success**

To undertake the arrangements for the Community Council Quadrennial Elections in terms of the North Lanarkshire Council Scheme for Community Councils.



**Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions**