

PROPOSED BY ELECTION- COLONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the recent election process carried out following the adoption of the revised Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils, Colonsay Community Council has been established with a membership of 4 community councillors (50% of the membership specified in Appendix 3 of the Scheme, which is 8 members). In adhering to the Scheme they are able to co-opt members to a maximum of one third of the total members of the community council, ie 2 persons can be co-opted. 5 individuals have expressed an interest in joining the community council, and the community council have requested that the Council carry out a by election process to enable these interested persons to stand for election.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Following the recent round of community council elections Colonsay Community Council has been established with an elected membership of 4. The Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils allows them to co-opt 2 members, but they have 5 people interested in joining, and have requested that the Council carry out a by election to enable these interested persons to stand for election.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 3.1 Notes the request from Colonsay Community Council for a by election be carried out to fill spaces in their membership and agrees that given the exceptional circumstances pertaining to this matter the request be granted.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 Following the recent adoption of the revised Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils elections were held with a date of election of 26th April 2018. The nominations period ran from Tuesday 6th to Thursday 22nd March 2018.
- 4.2 At close of nominations, 4 people were validly nominated for Colonsay community Council and were duly deemed to be elected.
- 4.3 At the inaugural meeting of the Community council, held on 7th May, it was noted that a number of residents on Colonsay had intimated to the newly elected members that they had been interested in standing for the community council, but had not managed to submit applications either because of the timelines involved, or because they had only recently made applications to be on the electoral register. Concerns were also raised about papers having to be lodged at Kilmory or at Council service points, which it was felt caused timing difficulties given postal arrangements on the island.
- 4.4 At the first ordinary meeting of the Colonsay Community Council it was noted that 5 persons have now expressed an interest in joining

the community council. There are 2 ways this could be taken forward;

- a) Where a vacancy arises which does not result in the number of community councillors falling below 50% of the membership figures specified in Appendix 3 of the Scheme, the community council may agree to fill the vacancy through co-option with full voting rights, to a maximum of one third of the total membership of the community council (in the case of Colonsay Community Council this equates to a maximum of 2 co-opted members) (Section 6.8 a) of the Scheme)
- b) In terms of section 6.10 of the Scheme, should a vacancy or vacancies arise in the membership of a community council between elections, the community council will advise Argyll and Bute Council who may hold an interim by election and offer each community council the opportunity to be included in the by election.

4.5 Given the situation which has arisen in Colonsay, the community council is faced with either co-opting a maximum of 2 members, who can serve for a maximum of two years until the planned interim by election is held in spring of 2020, or with requesting that the Council carry out a by election process which would enable all of the interested parties to stand for election. If this request is granted and elections take place, the outcome would be that the community council would move to full membership at the conclusion of the process, rather than having only 75% membership for the next two years.

4.6 . Members should note that should they agree to the request from the community council for a by election to be held, should the number of candidates validly nominated exceed the total number of seats on the community council (currently 4) a poll will be held. This would be a postal ballot with associated costs for printing of ballot papers, postage etc, but the costs can be covered from the existing election budget account.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Following the recent round of community council elections Colonsay Community Council has been established with an elected membership of 4. The Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils allows them to co-opt 2 members, but they have 5 people interested in joining, and have requested that the Council carry out a by election to enable these interested persons to stand for election and enable the community council to achieve 100% membership now rather than run for 2 year with a membership level of only 75%.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – None, proposals are consistent with policy.
- 6.2 Financial –It is expected that the cost of holding any agreed election will be contained within the current elections budget.

- 6.3 Legal – None.
- 6.4 HR – The election process will be carried out by existing staff.
- 6.5 Equalities - None
- 6.6 Risk – Failure to agree to the by election request could result in adverse publicity for the Council.
- 6.7 Customer Service - None

**Executive Director of Customer Services
Policy Leads - Councillors Currie and Colville**

17th July 2018

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