

ANNUAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL BY-ELECTION

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update for partners to note on the membership of community councils in Helensburgh & Lomond following the annual community council by-elections.
- 1.2 The 2014 annual by-election has resulted in an increase in membership of 100% of the participating community councils, it has increased the number of community councils with 100% membership from 1 (pre-election) to 2 (post-election) and managed to fill 50% of the vacancies advertised.
- 1.3 The Council has undertaken to provide an annual by-election for community councils to increase their membership levels and formalise any co-option undertaken at an AGM by the community councils.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL BY-ELECTION

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 At present there are 8 established community councils in the Helensburgh & Lomond Area. Each of those 8 community councils were offered opportunity to opt into the 2014 annual community council by-election process in effort to strengthen their membership or otherwise to allow any co-opted members the opportunity to put themselves forward as a candidate in the election.

2.2 This report provides partners with information about the annual by-election process and the impact that this has had on membership of community councils.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Helensburgh & Lomond Area Community Planning Group note that the 2014 annual by-election has taken place and as a result 16 new community councillors have been elected to 6 different community councils in the area.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 Eight community councils in the Helensburgh & Lomond area were offered opportunity to participate in the 2014 annual community council by-election. Of those 8, 1 indicated that they had no vacancies to advertise, 1 did not respond to the offer and 6 opted in to the process seeking to fill a total of 32 vacancies.

4.2 The nomination process commenced on 9 October and concluded on 27 October. A total of 16 valid nominations were received and were in respect of the following community councils:

Rhu & Shandon – 2 candidates for 3 vacancies
Cove & Kilcreggan – 2 candidates for 7 vacancies
Rosneath & Clynder – 3 candidates for 8 vacancies
Luss & Arden – 1 candidate for 1 vacancy
Helensburgh – 5 candidates for 7 vacancies
Cardross – 3 candidates for 6 vacancies

4.3 From the detail above it can be noted that there will be 6 uncontested elections.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 A total of 16 candidates will be elected to serve on 6 different community councils at 11am on 27 November 2014.

5.2 The 2014 by-election has been reasonably successful in that it has increased membership in 100% of the community councils participating in the by-election, filled 50% of the vacancies advertised and has increased the number of community councils with 100% membership from 1 to 2.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – None, the holding of annual by-elections are consistent with policy
- 6.2 Financial – There is an expense associated with running annual by-elections, particularly when contests arise and this will inevitably put pressure on the election budget.
- 6.3 Legal – None, annual by-elections are required to comply with the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils.
- 6.4 HR – None, while this creates additional pressure on staff in terms of increased workload, the staffing resource is contained to existing postholders.
- 6.5 Equalities – In accordance with existing election franchise, nominations are only accepted from those over 18 who are resident within the community council boundary. This accords with election rules.
- 6.6 Risk – Contested elections do increase pressure on annual budgets
- 6.7 Customer Service – Elections are advertised on the website, in local papers and community councils also promote within their own area. Nominees can lodge nomination papers at their local service points, by post or by email therefore there should be at no disadvantage due to remoteness.

Executive Director of Customer Services

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