



Agenda Item 14

**Community Council Elections
2022 Update**

Falkirk Council

Title: Community Council Elections 2022 Update
Meeting: Executive
Date: 4 October 2022
Submitted by: Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the results of the community council nomination process and to make recommendations in respect of those community councils which failed to attract sufficient nominees to be formed.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Executive is invited to:-

- (i) note the outcome of the nomination process for the 2022 Community Council elections;**
- (ii) note the formation of Bo'ness Community Council;**
- (iii) permit the formation of the community councils referred to in paragraph 5.4.1 with the remaining vacancies being filled by co-option;**
- (iv) extend the nominations period for the community councils referred to in paragraph 5.4.3; and**
- (v) note that an update on the outcome of the processes referred to in (iii) and (iv) above will be submitted to the next meeting.**

3. Climate Change Implications

- 3.1 The recommended decision does not give rise to any material implications for the Council's climate change targets and obligations. Officers' assessment is that the policies and procedures detailed in this report will not lead to changes in service provision or the deployment of resources that would increase or decrease the emission of carbon.

4. Background

- 4.1 The nomination process for the 2022 quadrennial community council elections closed on 16 September 2022. The table below details the outcome of the nomination process.

Community Council	Nominations Received
Airth Parish	4 nominations for 6 places
Avonbridge and Standburn	0 nominations for 6 places
Banknock, Hagsgs and Longcroft	6 nominations for 7 places
Blackness	0 nominations for 6 places
Bo'ness	10 nominations for 10 places
Bonnybridge	0 nominations for 8 places
Brightons	4 nominations for 6 places
Camelon, Bantaskine and Tamfourhill	1 nomination for 9 places
Carron and Carronshore	0 nominations for 7 places
Denny and District	4 nominations for 10 places
Falkirk Central	0 nomination for 7 places
Falkirk South	0 nominations for 7 places
Grahamston, Middlefield and Westfield	0 nominations for 8 places
Grangemouth	9 nominations for 12 places
Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron	1 nominations for 8 places
Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood	1 nominations for 11 places
Lower Braes	0 nominations for 7 places
Maddiston	0 nominations for 6 places
Polmont	5 nominations for 7 places
Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone	3 nominations for 6 places
Shieldhill and California	3 nominations for 7 places
Slamannan and Limerigg	1 nominations for 6 places
Whitecross	0 nominations for 6 places

5. Considerations

- 5.1 The process to establish community councils is two stage and is run in accordance with the Scheme for the Establishment of community councils. The first is to invite nominations. If the number of nominations received equals the number of vacancies then the community council is formed. If the number exceeds the number of vacancies a ballot is held. The election timetable reflects both stages with the day of election set as 26 October 2022. This is the date on which voting papers from any ballots arising from the nomination process will be counted..
- 5.2 In the case of Bo'ness Community Council 10 nominations were received for 10 places and accordingly the community council is formed
- 5.3 Where the number of candidates is **fewer** than the number of vacancies Council may permit the community council to treat the unfilled places as casual vacancies or may take such other action as it deems appropriate. Previous practice has been to allow, at this stage, those community councils

with fewer than 1/3 of the positions unfilled to establish and co-opt members to the unfilled places.

5.4 With this in mind those community councils where the number of nominations was fewer than the vacant positions can be split into two groups.

5.4.1 Community Councils where nominations for two-thirds or more of the vacancies were received:

Airth Parish	4 nominations for 6 places
Banknock, Haggs and Longcroft	6 nominations for 7 places
Brightons	4 nominations for 6 places
Grangemouth	9 nominations for 12 places
Polmont	5 nominations for 7 places

5.4.2 As noted above, it has been practice for the Council to permit community councils with this level of nominations to be formed and to co-opt members to the remaining vacancies thereafter. The alternative option would be not to allow the community councils to be formed at this stage and to extend the nomination period.

5.4.3 Community Councils where the number of nominations is fewer than two-thirds of the number of vacant positions:

Avonbridge and Standburn	0 nominations for 6 places
Blackness	0 nominations for 6 places
Bonnybridge	0 nominations for 8 places
Camelon, Bantaskine and Tamfourhill	1 nomination for 9 places
Carron and Carronshore	0 nominations for 7 places
Denny and Distrcit	4 nominations for 10 places
Falkirk Central	0 nomination for 7 places
Falkirk South	0 nominations for 7 places
Grahamston, Middlefield and Westfield	0 nominations for 8 places
Langlees, Bainsford and New Carron	1 nominations for 8 places
Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood	1 nominations for 11 places
Lower Braes	0 nominations for 7 places
Maddiston	0 nominations for 6 places
Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone	3 nomination for 6 places
Shieldhill and California	3 nominations for 7 places
Slamannan and Limerigg	1 nomination for 6 places
Whitecross	0 nominations for 6 places

5.4.4 At the close of nominations on 16 September 2022 insufficient nominations were received for each of the community councils set out in paragraph 5.4.3, to allow them to be formed, in accordance with the Council's previous practice. Should the Executive extend the nomination process this will be accepted as competently received.

5.4.5 The Council undertook an advertising campaign using social media, print media and engagement with the previous community councils and

interested local individuals to alert communities to the election process and to the closing date for nominations. A working group with representatives of community councils and interested individuals was established in late 2021 to look at how best to engage with communities in the run up to the election period. It is open to the Executive to extend the nominations process, if it so wishes, for those community councils listed at paragraph 5.4.3, for the purpose of seeking further nominations. If this was to be the case a revitalised engagement process would be put in place. It is recommended that the nomination process is extended to 9 December 2022. This will allow for further engagement work to be carried out in these communities to encourage nominations. An update report will be submitted to the January meeting of the Executive in 2023.

6. Consultation

There has been consultation with the proposals with a number of representatives of the groups listed in para 5.4.3 above. While a number of representatives are supportive of the proposals not all had replied at the time of writing this report.

7. Implications

Financial

- 7.1 Extending the nomination process would incur costs, for advertising, which would be met from budget.

Resources

- 7.2 There are no significant resource implications arising from the recommendations.

Legal

- 7.3 There are no legal implications.

Risk

- 7.4 There are no risks arising from the recommendations.

Equalities

- 7.5 There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 7.6 There are no sustainability/environment impacts.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 Following the community council nomination process, which closed on 16 September 2022, 1 community council has formed. This leaves 22 community council areas with no established community councils. The report sets out options to allow 5 community councils to fill outstanding vacancies and form and to extend the nomination process in the case of the remaining 17 community council areas.

Chief Executive

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Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

No papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.