

Review of the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils 2020/21

The following has been received from Lorraine McGrorty, West Lothian Council.

A review of the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils, adopted on 24th February 2015, has just got underway. The Scheme is traditionally reviewed in the year prior to the 4-yearly community council elections which are due to be held in September/October 2021. In line with previous reviews, a working group comprising 3 council officers and 3 representatives from the Joint Forum of WL Community Councils has been set up to progress the review and develop a new Scheme.

All community councils and community councillors are invited to submit any comments they have on the current Scheme, current community council boundaries or the suite of documents which support the Scheme, all of which can be viewed on the council's website at www.westlothian.gov.uk/communitycouncils

The council's elected members and members of the public are also being encouraged to submit comments and adverts advising of the intention to revoke the existing Scheme and develop a new one will appear in the West Lothian Courier and Linlithgow Gazette. The review will also be publicised via the council's social media platforms. The timetable for the full review process is lengthy due to the legal requirements to consult at the various stages. Queries to secretary@lbcc.org.uk.

If anyone wishes to make suggested changes to the current Scheme, they should ensure that their comments are sent to lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk by Friday 10th April 2020 at the very latest.

TIMETABLE

1.	Write to all community councils and elected members and place advert inviting comments on existing scheme in the Courier, Gazette, council's website, Bulletin newspaper, social media platforms, etc.	w/c 10/2/2020
2.	Ask Planning Services to review the community council ward boundaries and identify any anomalies which require to be addressed as part of the review.	w/c 10/2/2020
3.	Arrange 1-2 meetings with the Joint Forum to look at the current scheme and identify areas which could benefit from being changed and hear of suggestions from the Joint Forum which could be incorporated in a new scheme.	w/c 24/2/2020 w/c 17/3/2020
4.	Closing date for comments on existing scheme.	10/4/2020

5.	Meet with Joint Forum to discuss comments received during 1 st round of consultation.	w/c 27/4/2020
6.	Produce report and draft Scheme for consideration at next P&R PDSP.	11/5/2020
7.	Report back to P&R PDSP with a draft scheme taking account comments received during 1 st stage of public consultation exercise and any proposed boundary changes.	5/6/2020
8.	Write to all community councils/elected members and place advert in the Courier/Gazette/website with draft scheme for comments.	w/c 8/6/2020
9.	Closing date for comments on draft scheme.	7/8/2020
10.	Meet with the Joint Forum to discuss comments received on draft scheme.	w/c 17/8/2020
11.	Produce report for consideration at next P&R PDSP.	September 2020
12.	Report back to P&R PSDP with comments on draft scheme and produce amended draft scheme.	September/ October 2020
13.	Write to all community councils/elected members and place advert in the Courier/Gazette/Website with amended draft scheme for comments.	September/ October 2020
14.	Closing date for comments on amended draft scheme.	November/December 2020
15.	Meet with the Joint Forum to discuss comments on amended draft scheme and produce finalised scheme.	December 2020/ January 2021
16.	Produce report for consideration at next P&R PDSP.	January 2021
17.	Report back to P&R PDSP with comments on amended draft scheme and produce finalised scheme.	January/February 2021

18.	Present final scheme to a special meeting of West Lothian Council in February/March 2021 for adoption.	February/March 2021
19.	Write to all community councils/elected members and place advert in press with notification of finalised scheme.	February/March 2021
20.	E-mail the scheme to all community councillors and community council secretaries and publish online.	February/March 2021
21.	Make arrangements to tell all community councillors, elected members, etc. details of the deadlines, etc. that will apply to the community council elections in 2021.	February/March 2021