

Response from Jim Carnie, Duns Community Council

1. How your Community Council can ensure it considers equality and inclusion as part of its work
Difficult to call but every CC member has agreed to the Code of Conduct.
2. Reference to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
This would be useful.
3. Reference to Sub-Committees of Community Councils
I don't believe this is necessary.
4. Should there be reference to wider localities/Area Partnerships?
This would be useful.
5. Should there be a formula for determining the number of members of a Community Council (based on population and geography)?
Yes, it means there will be a consistent system throughout the council area.
6. Should there be reference to the ability to hold on-line meetings as well as physical meetings?
No harm as it would reflect the current reality.
7. The Working Group considers that the term of office for a Community Council should be 3 years (with options for Community Councillors to stand for re-election). Should the term be fixed or should there be rolling elections (i.e. an annual election with 1/3 of members standing down each year)?
Seems reasonable but who would administer this.
8. Should there be a limit on the number of times someone can be an office bearer?
No, as it might reduce the number of volunteers.
9. Should training for Community Councillors be compulsory and who should provide that training?
This would put off a lot of volunteers and how would pay (travel, loss of earnings, etc.)?
10. Should Community Councils be required to hold an annual survey/event to gather local views on a number of different issues relevant to their particular area?
This could prove a step too far for CC members as they are all volunteers.
11. Should a complaints procedure be included in the Scheme?
It should be consistent with modern practices.
12. Should there be any changes to the co-optation of members to Community Councils?
Current application is complicated and who keeps this information?
13. Should the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors involve sanctions should these be broken?
It should be consistent with modern practices.

14. Should Scottish Borders Council's website include links to where Community Councils publish their agendas and minutes?

Yes, it is important we can find out what is topical in other areas. Each CC should send their agendas & minutes to a SBC contact who would add them to the appropriate webpage.

15. What funding should be available for Community Councils and for what purpose?

Funding sources can change so this information will become incorrect so regular updates will be required.

16. Should on-line banking be included?

Again this is a modern practice.

17. Should there be job description/role profiles for Community Councillors and office bearers?

It would help.

18. Should details of the Scottish Borders Community Council network be included in the Scheme?

This network is part of the way we do business so it should be.