

Response from James Anderson, Eyemouth Community Council

1. How your Community Council can ensure it considers equality and inclusion as part of its work
[We have this but it needs added in as standard.](#)
2. Reference to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
[Absolutely it MUST be part of the fundamental bed rock of a community council.](#)
3. Reference to Sub-Committees of Community Councils
[A structure of governance for sub groups should be adopted to ensure continuity across the borders.](#)
4. Should there be reference to wider localities/Area Partnerships?
[No, however Community Councils should be named in the structure of area partnerships as relevant bodies and planning partners.](#)
5. Should there be a formula for determining the number of members of a Community Council (based on population and geography)?
[The system for CC member number allocation works fine to my knowledge.](#)
6. Should there be reference to the ability to hold on-line meetings as well as physical meetings?
[A clause must be added to allow CCs to stream and record meetings without a delay unless SBC offers equipment necessary.](#)
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)?
[Every three years would simplify the process for newcomers.](#)
8. Should there be a limit on the number of times someone can be an office bearer?
[No, this would cause CCs to stop functioning as it is a specific type of person who comes forward. Normally the same reliable people do the hard work of running CCs.](#)
9. Should training for Community Councillors be compulsory and who should provide that training?
[SBC should provide training \(as it is supposed to\) and run it with the Community council network.](#)
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?
[If support to do so is given by SBC.](#)
11. Should a complaints procedure be included in the Scheme?
[Yes.](#)
12. Should there be any changes to the co-option of members to Community Councils?

The wording should be made simpler as the current wording leads to less capable people misunderstanding it.

13. Should the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors involve sanctions should these be broken?
CC members should face removal in exceptional circumstances however keep in mind CC members are volunteers.
14. Should Scottish Borders Council's website include links to where Community Councils publish their agendas and minutes?
Yes.
15. What funding should be available for Community Councils and for what purpose?
After 20 years a rise in the CC allocation should be given. Not all members are retired and able to spare fuel for travel to meetings.
16. Should on-line banking be included?
Absolutely! It is a must in today's world.
17. Should there be job description/role profiles for Community Councillors and office bearers?
Yes! This would stop a lot of problems with the people who take the role and fail to do the work.
18. Should details of the Scottish Borders Community Council network be included in the Scheme?
Yes absolutely! The SBCCN was established to back up and support CCs and that is what it now does.