

Response from Logan Inglis, Reston & Auchencrow Community Council

1. How your Community Council can ensure it considers equality and inclusion as part of its work
We have an Equalities statement, we are happy/content with the Equalities statement we have at present and do not see a need to change this.?
2. Reference to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
We are happy to have the example from Renfrewshire Council adopted within the scheme. *The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 further strengthens the purpose of community councils by including voluntary bodies within the community planning framework. As voluntary bodies, community councils: 1. can participate in all parts of the community planning process to produce Local Outcome Improvement Plans, in the development, design and delivery of these plans and in the review, revision and reporting of progress; 2. can make Participation Requests; 3. can make Asset Transfer requests; 4. can be involved in forestry leasing; 5. have a right to be consulted on the disposal or change of use of common good assets; and 6. can be involved in Participatory Budgeting.*
3. Reference to Sub-Committees of Community Councils
We are happy to continue with sub-committees on the community council, e.g. Enhancement Group, Resilience Group.
4. Should there be reference to wider localities/Area Partnerships?
There should be some reference to wider groups, if only to make others aware of such groups.
5. Should there be a formula for determining the number of members of a Community Council (based on population and geography)?
Presently we have 7 members for Reston and 3 members for Auchencrow, potentially if all seats were filled. We do not see a need for change as it was thought this was population based and as such was formula based.
6. Should there be reference to the ability to hold on-line meetings as well as physical meetings?
Agreed, we think there should. To adopt the latest OSCR (SCIO) example would suit.
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)?
Presently we serve a four-year term, consensus is to stay with four years and All to resign after the term but to be able for re-election.
8. Should there be a limit on the number of times someone can be an office bearer?
Presently an office bearer can only serve two terms and he/she cannot be an office bearer for a third term. We are content to continue with this.
9. Should training for Community Councillors be compulsory and who should provide that training?
Consensus is YES, training should be compulsory even if it is 'in-house' training, but preferably by SBC officers. Training champions can be used to facilitate this.

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?
YES, if this is based on place making and local development plans, you may think this is too often and may be better with a more positive outcome if it was only carried out for the term of office for the community council.
11. Should a complaints procedure be included in the Scheme?
Yes, there should be a procedure to follow, with a separate body other than the community council to uphold the procedure.
12. Should there be any changes to the co-option of members to Community Councils?
Bearing in mind the co-option rule applies both to vacant members and persons co-opted to carry out a specific task, then these should be more clearly stated.
13. Should the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors involve sanctions should these be broken?
Unfortunately, we don't have a clear answer other than, 'two strikes and you're out'.
14. Should Scottish Borders Council's website include links to where Community Councils publish their agendas and minutes?
They used to do on their website, which was good to see how other community councils held their meetings and what was happening throughout. Yes, would be the answer.
15. What funding should be available for Community Councils and for what purpose?
Presently we receive £630.00 per annum, this is to cover admin duties, we are a proactive cc and tend to spend all our funds within the year. We would like to see an enhancement fund, whereas we can use the funds to further enhance the villages
16. Should on-line banking be included?
We have online banking and after eighteen months we still are having problems, for someone to start the process may prove difficult. But would encourage it.
17. Should there be job description/role profiles for Community Councillors and office bearers?
YES, the community council handbook, depicts roles and responsibilities of office bearers, this could be further enhanced and more descriptive.
18. Should details of the Scottish Borders Community Council network be included in the Scheme?
Yes, as they are made up of community councillors from each area, then they should be inclusive of the scheme.