

SBC PROPOSED CHANGES TO COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME – HCC COMMENTS

- 1.3 Should this include something about the requirement for SBC to apportion part of their budget each year, for expenditure on community initiatives, under the Community Empowerment Act?
- 2.3 Liquor Licence Applications – HCC has not since at least September 2019 (the initial election date for the majority of current members) received any email through our Hawick CC Gmail account regarding these applications for our comments. The paragraph goes on to say that HCC needs to contact Scottish Forestry for Forestry Applications – how are we actually made aware of such applications? Since 2019 we have never been involved in responding to any forestry applications.
- 4.1 Why does there need to be any restriction in the number of co-opted members? We are a voluntary body and maximum numbers on board gives more input/output.
- 4.3 There are 9 Protected Characteristics – and this only lists 7 – Pregnancy & Maternity; and Marriage & Civil Partnership are missing. Is there a reason for this?
- 8.1 A person seeking election to a CC can be nominated by a Proposer and Secunder who are resident in our area **and** are on the Electoral Roll, yet at 5.1 a candidate being co-opted on, can only be so proposed and seconded by a CC member. This means that anyone new to the town, who is interested in joining a CC and who is unlikely to know anyone on the CC to propose or second them, could only be considered at election time? What different checks are perhaps done in these instances?
- 8.2 Does this include co-option? How would a CC check?
- 11.2 Payment to Secretary/Treasurer – what is the difference between being allowed to pay for an ‘external’ person to act as secretary or treasurer and paying them, as opposed to members of HCC taking on that role and being paid? Whilst it is ok to claim expenses, can it be clarified if that includes time spent on the role, as opposed to expenditure on stationery, stamps etc. HCC considers it should be left to CCs to pay if they so wish and can afford.
- 11.7 Is it maximum number of elected members (as stated by SBC for each CC) or one-third of actual serving members at the time of any meeting?
- 11.10 Renewing registration with ICO – the first sentence is confusing as it implies that a CC needs to register whereas in fact SBC does this on behalf of CCs and pays associated costs, as outlined at 16.4 of the Training Handbook.

Also CCs need to **demonstrate** compliance with DP legislation, which is a minefield, and whilst some guidance notes have been provided, actual face-to-face training on expectations and likely scenarios would be welcomed.

- 12.1c There must be at least 3 meetings held in any 12-month period, to be convened at intervals of not more than **six** months – how is this possible?

