**Community Council Scheme Review 2018/19**

**Summary of Amendments following Phase 1 Consultation**

The comments and feedback received have all been reviewed, assessed and discussed with the Community Council Steering Group. The following sets out the changes proposed as a result of the feedback received and the new proposals which have come forward as a result of the phase one consultation. These are all subject to a further and final phase of consultation.

All changes, including those retained from phase 1 with no change, are highlighted in the [Scheme document](http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/20447/documentation).

**Scheme Document – Changes to Existing Proposals**

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| ***Increasing co-option*** * Original proposal - to allow Community Councils to co-opt up to their total membership number, but with a maximum of 4 co-opted members. This ensures the balance would remain in favour of elected members.
* Feedback - some concerns were expressed during the consultation that this would dilute membership and that the balance must remain with elected Community Councils.
* **Proposed Change: an amendment to the proposal to clarify that half of membership must be elected therefore retaining the balance in favour of elected members.** (Scheme 6.2.6, 6.3 Const. 7.1)
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| ***Youth membership*** * Original proposal - to allow two additional places for 14-18 year olds with full voting rights, with the exception of co-option. These youth places will not count towards the total established membership of the Community Council.
* Feedback - Overall support for trying to encourage youth membership. However, concerns regarding 14/15 year olds’ financial responsibility and child protection matters. It was noted that it should be clear that youth members should reside within the Community Council area. One suggestion was that youth members should only be an associate member with no voting rights. However, this did not reflect support for change from CCs. A range of suggestions were also proposed regarding length of membership but there were no conclusive suggestions.
* **Proposed change - taking into account the concerns noted, it is proposed to retain the principle of youth membership, with full voting rights, but noting the need to live in Community Council area and revising membership to 16-18 year olds.** (Scheme 5.7)
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| ***Financial statement**** Original proposal: remove the financial statement from the Scheme to enable greater flexibility for amendment.
* Feedback - some concern at removal of statement due to the importance of clarity regarding reporting responsibilities.
* **Proposed change - clarification in Scheme regarding any proposal to amend must include engagement with CCs.** (Scheme 3.2)
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| ***Electronic ballot**** Original Proposal: to enable elections to be carried out by electronic ballot should this technology be available and cost effective.
* Feedback: some concerns expressed regarding sole use of electronic ballot and also security.
* **Proposed Change: Clarification required that not sole method of election and that appropriate security in place prior to use. (Scheme 6.2.5)**
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**Scheme Document – New Proposed Amendments**

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| ***Publicising interim elections:*** Proposal that dates for interim elections should be publicised and notified to Community Councils at the start of the year. (Scheme 6.2.6) |

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| ***Complaints process:*** Develop a complaints process for Community Councils on how to manage complaints from members and the public. Referenced in Scheme but to be developed along with Community Councils (Scheme 3.4) |

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| ***Financial reporting:*** To support greater financial oversight, a written financial statement, including the current balance to be provided at each CC meeting (Scheme 3.2 and Const. 14.1 c) |

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| ***Promotion and engagement:*** To have a clearer definition and requirement of promotion and engagement. Require CCs to have a social media/virtual presence. Revised definition regarding promotion within the scheme however options rather than required approaches. Flexibility for CCs important. (Scheme 3.1, 3.2, 3.4 and Const. 12.1c) |

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| ***Clarification of remit of sub-committees:*** To ensure remit of sub-committees is established. (Const. 10.1 and Standing Orders 8.1) |

**Boundary Proposals – Proposals for Phase 2 Consultation**

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| **Community Councils:** | **Boundary Proposal:** |
| Beauly and Muir of Ord | Include The Braes to the north and Wyndhill to the east as these communities are both serviced from Beauly and have active community members. |
| Cradlehall and Westhill and Strathnairn | Amend north east boundary between Cradlehall and Westhill with BallochFrom Nairnside up to Clava from Strathnairn to Cradlehall and Westhill.  |
| Dores and Essich and Holm  | Received from Dores and Essich following engagement with neighbouring Community Councils Boundary between Dores and Holm to be redrawn to reflect housing development.  |
| Fort William and Inverlochy & Torlundy | Combine Fort William and Inverlochy and Torlundy Community Councils |
| Inverness South | Proposal from Members to split Inverness South Community Council into Inshes and Milton and Leys and Slackbuie Community Councils |
| Mallaig and Knoydart | Split and form new CC in Inverie and Knoydart |

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| **Community Councils:** | **Boundary Proposal:** |
| Smithton & Culloden | Split into two new CCs |
| Smithton and Culloden and Balloch | Proposal from Balloch to extend at Balloch Farm and take into account development. |
| Croy and Balloch and Strathnairn | Proposal from Balloch Community Council to further extend at Viewhill – remove from Coy and Culloden Moor. Parts of Culloden Moor from Strathnairn to Croy and Culloden Moor |