

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Minute of Special Meeting held at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 25 June 2014.**

**Present:**

Provost Alastair Carmichael	Councillor Gordon McCaskill
Councillor Danny Devlin	Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)	Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Charlie Gilbert	Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Barbara Grant	Councillor Tommy Reilly
Councillor Elaine Green	Councillor Ralph Robertson
Councillor Kenny Hay	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Alan Lafferty	Councillor Vincent Waters
Councillor Ian McAlpine	

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

**Attending:**

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Iain MacLean, Head of Environment (Planning, Property and Regeneration); Jamie Reid, Community Resources Manager; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Paul O’Neil, Committee Services Officer.

**Also Attending:**

Keith Yates, SOLACE Enterprises.

**Apologies:**

Deputy Provost Betty Cunningham and Councillors Tony Buchanan and Jim Swift.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1121.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT - STAGE 1 UPDATE AND STAGE 2 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

**1122.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Council of 23 October 2013 (Page 727, Item 760 refers), when the Council agreed that the existing Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils be opened up for review, the Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of the findings emerging from a wide range of engagement undertaken during Stage 1 of the current review of the Community Council Scheme of Establishment. The report also sought approval for the next steps in the review process.

The report explained that the findings from Stage 1 indicated scope for real improvements to the operation and performance of community councils, and encouraged wider representation as well as strengthening the relationship between the Council and community councils. The objective findings from a wide range of engagement activities suggested the main focus for community councils would be around increasing representation, strengthening support mechanisms, a review of election and co-option processes, and development of a revised Scheme of Establishment and associated documentation that was fit for purpose.

In reply to a question by Councillor Grant about the timescale for completing the review, the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services explained that the review was a statutory process and therefore the Council had to comply with the statutory timescales laid down for consultation which were noted as 12 weeks for each stage of the review process.

Councillor Fletcher was heard in response to the findings of Stage 1 of the process, in the course of which he acknowledged that there were a range of issues for the Council to give consideration. These included amongst other things, the negative comments made about the Council in terms of its support for community councils, and how younger people and those from minority ethnic communities could be attracted to become community councillors. Concluding his remarks, he stated that it was evident from the current age profile in the report that young people were underrepresented on community councils and that community councils should be more representative of the communities they serve.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the findings of the Stage 1 research and consultation as outlined in the report;
- (b) approved the next steps as outlined in the report; and
- (c) in principle, approved the timeline for Stages 2 and 3 as outlined in Annex 2 to the report.

PROVOST