

10.00 am, Thursday, 27 October 2016

Leith Central Community Council Election

Item number	8.2
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	Leith Central

Executive summary

The Community Council triennial elections commenced on 5 September 2016, with close of nominations on 26 October 2016.

Following the close of nominations, 17 nominations were received for the 16 places on Leith Central Community Council. As the number of nominations exceeded the available places a poll was therefore scheduled for 27 October 2016.

Subsequently, one of the candidates withdrew. The Governance Protocol for Community Council Elections contains no provision for candidate to withdraw after the deadline for doing so has passed., and an urgent decision was required on whether or not to proceed with the poll. The Lord Provost was consulted, and a decision taken under urgency provisions not to hold a poll in these circumstances. Council is asked to note this action.

Links

Coalition pledges
Council outcomes
Single Outcome Agreement

Leith Central Community Council Election

Recommendations

1. To note the action taken, under urgency provisions, not to hold a poll for Leith Central Community Council.

Main report

- 2.1 Following closure of nominations, 17 nominations were received for the 16 places on Leith Central Community Council. Subsequently one of the candidates advised the Returning Officer (Councillor Ritchie) that he had withdrawn his nomination.
- 2.2 A poll had been scheduled to be held on 27 October 2016. This was likely to cost approximately £15k to stage.

If no action were taken and the election went ahead, people who voted for the candidate who has withdrawn from the election may feel misled or that they have wasted their vote leading to a dissatisfaction with the democratic process
- 2.3 In the circumstance, officers recommended that the poll for Leith Central Community Council was no longer needed. A Council decision was required, as the Governance Protocol for Community Council Elections does not address such a scenario.
- 2.4 Following consultation with the Lord Provost, the decision was taken under urgency provisions that no poll was required. Council is asked to note this action.

Measures of success

- 3.1 Appointments are made to all the available places on Leith Central Community Council.

Financial impact

- 4.1 Not applicable.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 5.1 Without Council approval, any decision not to hold an election in these circumstances would be challengeable.

Equalities impact

- 6.1 Not applicable.

Sustainability impact

7.1 Not applicable.

Consultation and engagement

8.1 Consultation took place with the Lord Provost before the decision was taken.

Background reading/external references

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

Contact Allan McCartney, Clerking Manager

Email: allan.mccartney@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4246

Links

Coalition pledges

Council outcomes

Single Outcome

Agreement

Appendices