

Culture and Communities Committee

10am, Tuesday, 10 September 2019

Community Councils - Merchiston and Tollcross Small Scale Boundary Change

**Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments**

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the joint request from Merchiston and Tollcross community councils to amend boundaries in line with the maps presented at appendix 1.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Report

Community Councils - Merchiston and Tollcross Small Scale Boundary Change

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 A joint-request has been received from Merchiston Community Council (CC) and Tollcross CC to amend boundaries using the small-scale boundary change procedure contained within the Scheme for Community Councils.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Scheme for Community Councils allows for requests to change the boundaries and names of CCs to be made in writing to the Council Elections Manager. Such requests are then to be submitted to the appropriate committee for approval.

4. Main report

- 4.1 A request was received on 22 March 2019 to amend the boundary of Merchiston CC and Tollcross CC to move part of Leamington Terrace and Bruntsfield Place from the latter into the former. The Meadows will remain within the Tollcross CC area. Proposals (appendix 1) were endorsed by Tollcross CC in February 2019 and Merchiston CC in March 2019.
- 4.2 The change will have the impact of reducing the number of local ward councillors whose wards are covered by the Tollcross CC. Currently Tollcross CC includes residents from both the City Centre and Morningside wards. Following the change Tollcross CC would be wholly within the City Centre ward and thus there would be a reduction from eight to four local ward councillors.
- 4.3 It is proposed that the change takes effect for the upcoming CC election and subsequent term.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The nominations period for community council elections closes on 28 September 2019. The new boundaries will be adopted for the purpose of nominations and the subsequent CC term.
- 5.2 If a poll is conducted as part of the elections for either CC, the electorate will reflect the new ward boundaries.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There will be a negligible impact on the annual administrative grant allocation for each CC. The current methodology uses a per capita component of 2p for each person living in the CC area. Proposals are expected to impact 144 residents and will result in a re-allocation of £2.88 from Tollcross CC to Merchiston CC but will not impact upon overall budgets.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Any minor amendment of community council boundaries should be approved by all impacted CCs if proposed outwith a full review period. The proposed change will impact upon Tollcross CC and Merchiston CC, both of which have agreed and minuted their approval at properly constituted meetings.
- 7.2 CC meetings are open to the public and agenda items are advised seven days in advance. Members of the public who objected were entitled to raise objections at community council meetings. No such objections were raised.

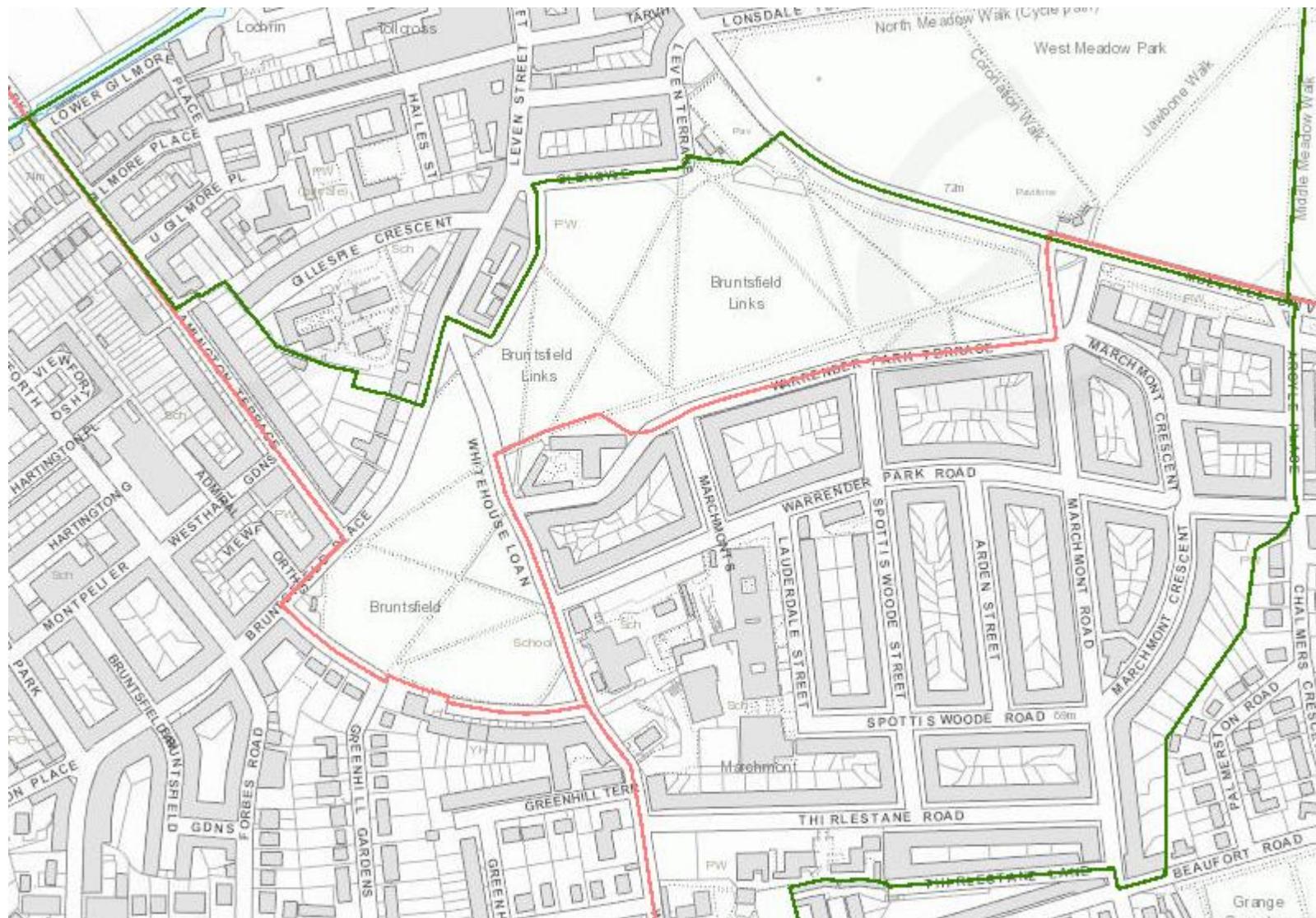
8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Scheme for Community Councils](#)

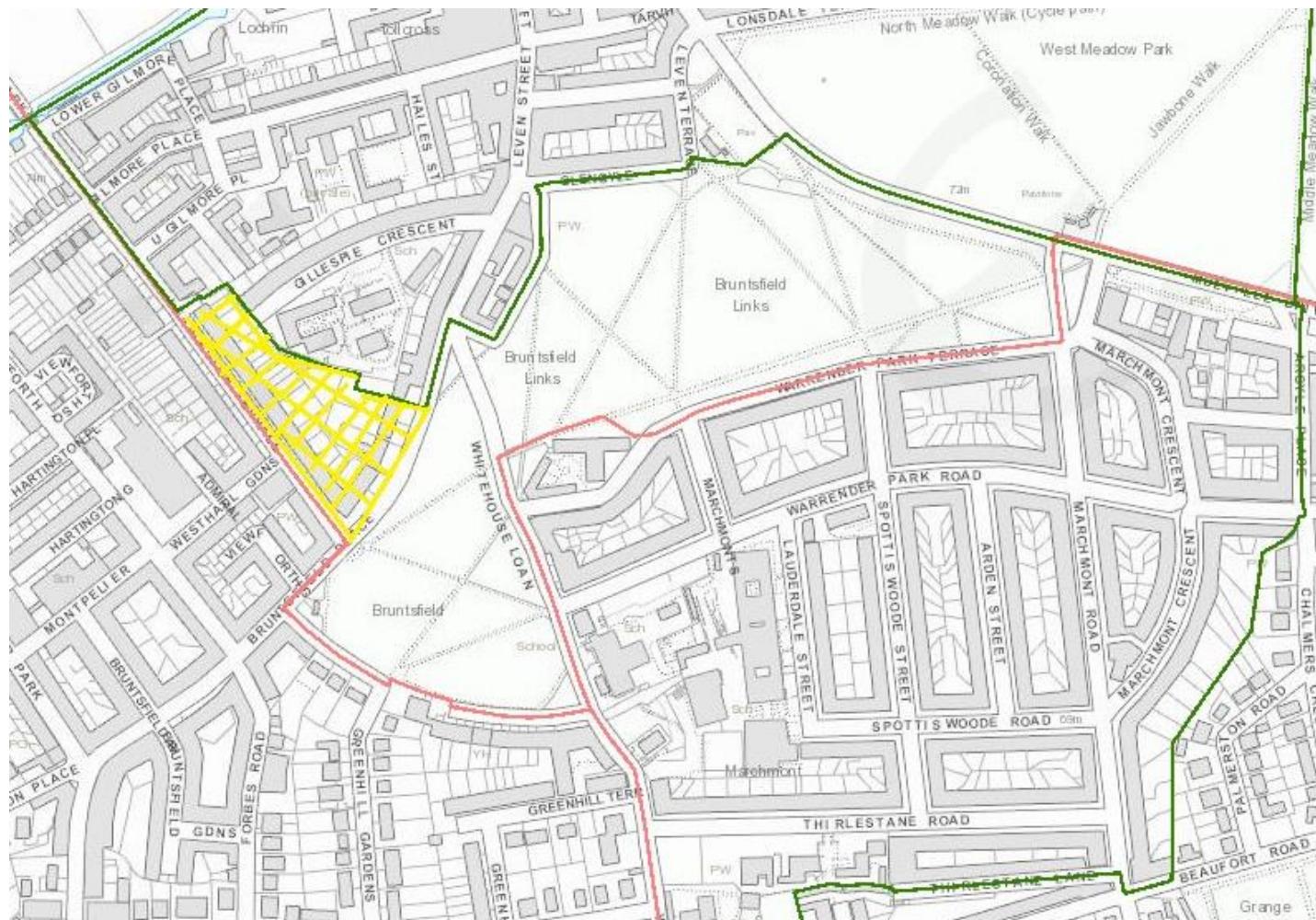
9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Map of proposed boundary change

Existing Boundaries:



Proposed Change:



Green – City Council Boundaries

Red – Community Council Boundaries

Yellow - Area changing from Tollcross CC to Merchison CC