

Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Council (Special Meeting)

Edinburgh, Thursday 8 February 2024

Present:

LORD PROVOST

The Right Honourable Robert Aldridge

COUNCILLORS

Scott Arthur
Danny Aston
Jule Bandel
Alan C Beal
Fiona Bennett
Marco Biagi
Chas Booth
Graeme Bruce
Steve Burgess
Jack Caldwell
Lezley Marion Cameron
Kate Campbell
Christopher Cowdy
James Dalgleish
Euan R Davidson
Cammy Day
Sanne Dijkstra-Downie
Denis Dixon
Stuart Dobbin
Phil Doggart
Katrina Faccenda
Pauline Flannery
Neil Gardiner
Fiona Glasgow
Margaret A Graham
Dan Heap
Euan Hyslop
Stephen P Jenkinson
Tim Jones
David Key

Simita Kumar
Kevin Lang
Lesley Macinnes
Martha Mattos Coelho
Finlay McFarlane
Ross McKenzie
Amy McNeese-Mechan
Jane E Meagher
Max Mitchell
Jo Mowat
Alys Mumford
Marie-Clair Munro
Vicky Nicolson
Adam Nols-McVey
Kayleigh O'Neill
Hal Osler
Ben Parker
Tim Pogson
Susan Rae
Neil J Ross
Jason Rust
Alex Staniforth
Edward J Thornley
Val Walker
Mandy H Watt
Iain Whyte
Norman J Work
Louise Young
Lewis J Younie

1 Review of Scheme for Community Councils and their Boundaries

Details were provided on the outcome of the first statutory consultation period of ten weeks for the Review of the Scheme and Boundaries for Community Councils and endorsement sought for an eight-week consultation period to comply with legislation.

Motion

- 1) To note that a ten-week consultation in line with the statutory process had concluded.
- 2) To approve the draft Scheme (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services) and draft Boundaries (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report) for an eight-week consultation period from 12 February 2024 to 8 April 2024.
- 3) That the “Liberton and District Community Council” be changed to the “Liberton Gracemount and Inch Community Council”.
- 4) Highlight the need for a more inclusive and diverse composition of Community Councillors during this final consultation period.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment 1

- 1) To note that a ten-week consultation in line with the statutory process had concluded.
- 2) To approve the draft Scheme (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services) and draft Boundaries (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report) for an eight-week consultation period from 12 February 2024 to 8 April 2024 subject to the following amendments:
 - a) inserting at the end of 6.31 “except for the position of Chair, where a person shall not serve as the Chair of any one community council for more than a combined period of five years, from the date on which this scheme was approved by the Council.”
 - b) that the Corstorphine and Carrick Knowe Community Council be renamed Corstorphine and Clermiston Community Council.

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Lang

Amendment 2

- 1) To note that a ten-week consultation in line with the statutory process had concluded.
- 2) To approve the draft Scheme (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services) and draft Boundaries (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report) for an eight-week consultation period from 12 February 2024 to 8 April 2024.
- 3) Agrees to include in the above consultation the following options for improving access, equality and diversity : term limits for other office bearers; gender balancing mechanisms for community councils; increased training for community councillors and office bearers focussed on running meetings, handling email workload and the duties of community councillors; additional resource for encouragement of candidates to community councils; resources to support attendance at community councils including transport and care costs.
- 4) Agrees that should the above require additional officer time then the launch of the next consultation should be delayed by no more than two weeks from the proposed 12th February start date.

- moved by Councillor Staniforth, seconded by Councillor Bandel

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the motion.

At this point in the meeting the following Amendments 3 and 4 were proposed:

Amendment 3

To agree Amendment 1 as originally submitted by Councillor Thornley.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Doggart,

Amendment 4

To continue consideration of the matter to the meeting in March 2024 to allow further engagement and discussions with Community Councils to be carried out.

- moved by Councillor Nols-McVey, seconded by Councillor Mattos Coelho

In accordance with Standing Order 24(4), the Lord Provost ruled that a first vote be taken for or against Amendment 4 for continuation.

Voting

First Vote

The voting was as follows:

For Amendment 4 (for continuation)	-	18 votes
Against Amendment 4 (against continuation)	-	41 votes

(For Amendment 4: Councillors Aston, Biagi, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Gardiner, Glasgow, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McKenzie, McNeese-Meechan, Nicolson, Nols-McVey and Work.)

Against the Amendment 4: Lord Provost, Councillors Arthur, Bandel, Beal, Bennett, Booth, Bruce, Burgess, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Heap, Jenkinson, Jones, Lang, Meagher, Mitchell, Mowat, Mumford, Munro, O'Neill, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Ross, Rust, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Whyte, Young and Younie.)

As the vote for continuation was lost, a second vote was then taken between the Motion by Councillor Walker (as adjusted) and Amendment 3 by Councillor Whyte (Amendment 1 by Councillor Lang as originally submitted).

Second Vote

The voting was as follows:

Voting

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	33 votes
For Amendment 3	-	9 votes
Abstentions	-	17

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Lord Provost, Councillors Arthur, Bandel, Beal, Bennett, Booth, Burgess, Caldwell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Dalgleish, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Faccenda, Flannery, Graham, Heap, Jenkinson, Lang, McKenzie, Meagher, Mumford, O'Neill, Parker, Pogson, Rae, Ross, Staniforth, Thornley, Walker, Watt, Young and Younie.)

For Amendment 4: Councillors Bruce, Cowdy, Doggart, Jones, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro, Rust and Whyte.

Abstentions: Councillors Aston, Biagi, Campbell, Dixon, Dobbin, Gardiner, Glasgow, Hyslop, Key, Kumar, Macinnes, Mattos Coelho, McFarlane, McNeese-Meechan, Nicolson, Nols-McVey and Work.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note that a ten-week consultation in line with the statutory process had concluded.
- 2) To approve the draft Scheme (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services) and draft Boundaries (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report) for an eight-week consultation period from 12 February 2024 to 8 April 2024 subject to the following amendments:
 - a) inserting at the end of 6.31 “except for the position of Chair, where a person shall not serve as the Chair of any one community council for more than a combined period of five years, from the date on which this scheme was approved by the Council.”
 - b) that the Corstorphine and Carrick Knowe Community Council be renamed Corstorphine and Clermiston Community Council.
- 3) To agree that the “Liberton and District Community Council” be changed to the “Liberton Gracemount and Inch Community Council”.
- 4) To highlight the need for a more inclusive and diverse composition of Community Councillors during this final consultation period.
- 5) To agree to include in the above consultation the following options for improving access, equality and diversity : term limits for other office bearers; gender balancing mechanisms for community councils; increased training for community councillors and office bearers focussed on running meetings, handling email workload and the duties of community councillors; additional resource for encouragement of candidates to community councils; resources to support attendance at community councils including transport and care costs.
- 6) To agree that should the above require additional officer time then the launch of the next consultation should be delayed by no more than two weeks from the proposed 12th February start date.

(References – Act of Council No1 of 28 September 2024: report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Osler declared a non-financial interest in the above item as her husband was a Community Councillor, left the room and took no part in the consideration of the item.