

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Corporate Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>10 December 2008</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Community Council Elections 2008 - Update</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update on the outcome of the 2008 Community Council elections process in South Lanarkshire

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the position following the 2008 Community Council elections be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. In terms of the South Lanarkshire Council Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils which was adopted in 1999, Community Council elections require to be held every 3 years on the last Tuesday of October.
- 3.2. On this basis, Tuesday 28 October 2008 was the date for Community Council elections throughout the South Lanarkshire Council area.
- 3.3. Members of Community Councils are elected by means of a ballot box with secret voting and there is also a requirement for postal votes as part of the voting process. Full details of the procedures to be followed by Community Councils during an election are stipulated in the Scheme.
- 3.4. The Scheme makes provision for the formation of 58 Community Councils and 34 were operating in the period leading up to the elections.

## 4. Requirement for Elections

- 4.1. In line with the procedures, nominations were invited by each of the Returning Officers appointed by the individual Community Councils by the closing date of 14 October 2008.
- 4.2. The number of elected members required for each Community Council is specified in the Scheme. If the number of candidates is more than half of the number of members to be elected but does not exceed the number of members to be elected for the area or division, no election requires to be held.

- 4.3. 33 of the 34 Community Councils attracted sufficient valid nominations to allow them to re-establish without the requirement for an election and, therefore, all of the nominated candidates were declared elected on 28 October 2008.
- 4.4. In the case of the Royal Burgh of Lanark Community Council, there is provision for 10 elected members (6 in Division 1 and 4 in Division 2). 11 nominations were received for Division 1 and 8 were received for Division 2 and, therefore, a full election was required.
- 4.5. On 28 October 2008, the polling station at The Tolbooth, Lanark was open from 8.00am to 8.00pm and, in the course of the day, a total of 218 voters (113 in Division 1 and 105 in Division 2) out of an electorate of 7175 cast their votes. This figure included 3 postal votes handed in at the polling station.
- 4.6. At the conclusion of the count, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes in descending order up to the total number of places to be filled (6 in Division 1 and 4 in Division 2) were declared to be elected to serve on the Community Council. There were no rejected ballot papers.
- 4.7. Following the 2008 elections process, there is, therefore, no change in the Community Councils operating in the area and these are listed in Appendix 1.
- 5. Good Practice Briefing Session for Community Council Office Bearers**
- 5.1. In recognition of the fact that there may be a number of individuals being appointed to office bearer positions within their Community Council for the first time, arrangements are being made to hold a good practice briefing session for Community Council office bearers on 27 January 2009. However, the session is not designed exclusively for new appointments and all Community Council Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers will be encouraged to attend so that there is the opportunity to identify and share best practice.
- 6. Employee Implications**
- 6.1. None.
- 7. Financial Implications**
- 7.1. None.
- 8. Other Implications**
- 8.1. None.
- 9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. There was no requirement to undertake consultation in respect of the content of this report.

**Robert McIlwain**  
**Executive Director (Corporate Resources)**  
21 November 2008

**Link(s) to Council Objectives**

- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Fair and open

**Previous References**

None

**List of Background Papers**

South Lanarkshire Council Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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**2008 Community Council Election Process - List of Community Councils Established**

Biggar  
Black Mount  
Bothwell  
Burnside  
Calderwood  
Cambuslang  
Carluke  
Carnwath  
Clyde Valley  
Coalburn  
Douglas  
Duneaton  
East Mains  
Halfway  
Hillhouse  
Jackton/Thorntonhall  
Larkhall  
Leadhills  
Lesmahagow  
Lindsay, Auldhouse and Chapelton  
Murray  
New Lanark  
Pettinain  
Rutherglen  
Sandford and Upper Avondale  
St Leonards  
Stewartfield  
Stonehouse  
Strathaven  
Symington  
Tarbrax  
The Royal Burgh of Lanark  
Uddingston  
Westwood