
Report To:	Regeneration Committee	Date:	7th May 2009
Report By:	Corporate Director – Regeneration and Resources	Report No:	RC/09/05/10/SJ/ WW
Contact Officer:	Head of Economic and Social Regeneration	Contact No:	01475 715555
Subject:	Community Council Review Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the ongoing review of Community Councils at a national level and in Inverclyde.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The review of Community Councils is ongoing at both national and local level. The national review is considering a new Scheme of Delegation for Community Councils and a new Code of Conduct for Community Councillors. An update report on this aspect of the review was submitted to the Regeneration Committee on 4th September 2008 and 30th October 2008. The review at a local level is being taken forward by the Community Council Review Working Group (CCWG) and is looking at the issues of Community Council boundaries and future support by Inverclyde Council to Community Councils.

- 2.2 The national review has now taken a significant step forward with the publication of the following documents:

- A model Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils
- A model Constitution for Community Councils
- Model Standing Orders
- A Code of Conduct for Community Councillors

Consultation with all Community Councils and with the Inverclyde Federation of Community Councils on these documents is now ongoing. After this period of consultation, the documents will be presented to Committee for approval and adoption.

- 2.3 The local review of boundaries and support resources is ongoing. However it is noted that the CCWG has not met in some time. It is proposed that the Convener of the Regeneration Committee will now chair this Group through to the conclusion of its work.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Committee notes the progress on the Review of Community Councils at a national and local level.
- 3.2 That the Convener of the Regeneration Committee will now chair the local Community Council Working Group.
- 3.3 That Committee remits the Community Council Working Group to report to the Regeneration Committee as soon as practicable on the outcome of the consultation process on the local and national reviews.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 For the last 18 months, the national Community Council Working Group has been considering a new Scheme of Delegation for Community Councils and a new Code of Conduct for Community Councillors. At a local level the Inverclyde Community Council Working Group has been considering new boundaries for Community Councils and has been considering a review of future support resources for Community Councils.
- 4.2 The national review Working Group has now completed its work on the following four documents:
- A model Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils
 - A model Constitution for Community Councils
 - Model Standing Orders
 - A Code of Conduct for Community Councillors

Full copies of these documents can be downloaded at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CommunityCouncils>

- 4.3 There should now be a period of time to reflect on these documents. It is proposed that the local CCWG consults with all Community Councils and with the Inverclyde Federation of Community Councils. The Council's Community Council Liaison Officer will also consult with all other local authorities.
- 4.4 Once the consultation is complete it is proposed that a further report be given to the Regeneration Committee setting out the detail of the documents and proposing their adoption subject to the consultation process.
- 4.5 The local review which is looking at boundaries and resources has not met for some time. In order to progress the work of the group through to conclusion it is proposed that the Convener of the Regeneration Committee now takes over as Chair of the Group.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications – One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	None at this stage

Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	None at this stage

- 5.2 Human Resources and Legal Services: None
- 5.3 Equalities: The new national Scheme of Delegation will deal with equalities issues for the establishment of the new Community Councils.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Community Councils and the Inverclyde Federation of Community Councils have been consulted over the past few months. A further period of public consultation will be held prior to the next report to Committee.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None