

# North Lanarkshire Council

## Report

### North Lanarkshire Council



approval



noting

Ref: AR/DR

Date: 3 October 2019

### Amendments to the Scheme of Administration

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#### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of a number of amendments to the Scheme of Administration.

#### Recommendations

Council is recommended to:-

1. Approve options 1-5 as detailed in paragraph 2:-
  - Option 1 – Communities and Housing Committee
  - Option 2 – Community Safety Partnership Forum
  - Option 3 – Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee
  - Option 4 – Community Councils and Town Twinning
  - Option 5 – Civic Functions Group
2. Instruct the Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions to amend, and publish, the revised Scheme of Administration and Scheme of Delegation to Officers, and
3. To agree that implementation of the revised Scheme of Administration will take effect on 1 January 2020.

#### The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority Improve North Lanarkshire's resource base.

Ambition Statement Review and Design Services Around People, Communities and Shared Resources.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1. At its meeting on 4 October 2018, the Council approved a new Scheme of Administration (the Scheme) which reflected the newly created organisational structure. This was a decision in "principle only" and it was at its meeting on 20 December 2018 that the Council agreed, in full, the revised Scheme.
- 1.2. The new Scheme became effective as at 1 January 2019.

## **2. Report**

- 2.1. Following implementation of the new Scheme in January 2019, a review has taken place regarding its effectiveness and to consider where any enhancements can be made with a view to improving the decision making process within the Council.
- 2.2. A number of options have been considered following comments made by Elected Members, Conveners and Chief Officers and these are listed below for the consideration of the Council:-

### **Option 1 – Communities and Housing Committee**

- 2.2.1. The Communities and Housing Committee be renamed Housing and Regeneration Committee to reflect that the remit for “Communities” sits with another Committee.

### **Option 2 – Community Safety Partnership Forum**

- 2.2.2. It has been noted that a criticism since the creation of the Youth, Communities and Empowerment Committee has been the length of time taken to complete business. To provide a more focused remit for the Committee it is proposed to re-establish the Community Safety Partnership Forum (which had been in existence up to May 2017) and which will have responsibility for considering performance reports from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue. The Forum will not be a Committee or Sub-Committee and will have no decision making power. It will be comprised of eight elected members, appointed according to political balance.

### **Option 3 – Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee**

- 2.2.3. It is proposed that this Committee be renamed “Community Empowerment Committee” to better reflect that its remit is wide and encompasses many matters, all of which impact upon communities, individuals and community groups.

### **Option 4 – Community Councils and Town Twinning**

- 2.2.4. It is proposed that responsibility for matters relating to Community Councils and Town Twinning now sit with Youth, Equalities and Empowerment/Community Empowerment Committee, rather than the Finance and Resources Committee.

### **Option 5 – Civic Functions Group**

- 2.2.5. It is proposed that the Civic Functions Group be disbanded and delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions, in consultation with the Provost to approve applications for civic hospitality.

The criteria against which requests for civic hospitality are considered have been clearly set and the Provost would work apply those criteria in considering whether an application should be approved. It is considered that the Civic Functions Group, in its current guise, retains little flexibility for approving or refusing

applications which deviate from the set criteria and that such a task can be more efficiently taken outwith the formal setting of a meeting once each Committee cycle.

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**3. Equality and Diversity**

**3.1. Fairer Scotland Duty**

N/A

**3.2. Equality Impact Assessment**

N/A

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**4. Implications**

**4.1. Financial Impact**

It is considered that there will be no financial impact on the Council as a result of the proposed amendments to the Scheme of Administration.

**4.2. HR/Policy/Legislative Impact**

It is considered that there will be no HR, Policy or Legislative impact on the Council as a result of the proposed amendments to the Scheme of Administration.

**4.3. Environmental Impact**

It is considered that there will be no environmental impact upon the Council as a result of the proposed amendments to the Scheme of Administration.

**4.4. Risk Impact**

It is considered that there is no risk to the Council as a result of the proposed amendments to the Scheme of Administration. The Council is not changing policy or its strategic direction of travel and the same consideration will be given to business as at present, save that some areas of business will now become the responsibility of a different Committee.

## 5. Measures of Success

- 5.1. The decision making process of the Council will be streamlined and each Committee will have a clear remit in terms of its business.

## 6. Supporting Documents

- 6.1. None.

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## Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions