

DETAILED FEEDBACK FROM PHASE 3 CONSULTATION
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<p>FORMAT Significant feedback requesting the Scheme to be easier to understand, have less duplication and follow a more logical order was received in Phase 1 & 2.</p>	<p>Do you find the Scheme easier to read?</p>	<p>(Yes 48 No 2) Overall a very positive response. However, requests for the document to be presented in Plain English, adopting corporate colours and simplification of numbering were requested.</p>
<p>The Code of Conduct is a Schedule to the existing Scheme. To reduce duplication and promote the importance of this part of the Scheme a change of layout is proposed.</p>	<p>Do you agree that the Code of Conduct should be a section in the body of the Scheme?</p>	<p>(Yes 52 No 5) Overall a very positive response. Ease of access by keeping everything in one document was viewed as helpful.</p>
<p>The Independent Complaints Procedure is an Appendix to the existing Scheme. This means that it is optional for Community Councils to use. Community Councils are dealing with an increasing number of complaints regarding decisions taken. To support all Community Councils in the handling of complaints it is proposed that the Independent Complaints Procedure forms part of the Scheme.</p>	<p>Do you agree that the Independent Complaints Procedure should form part of the Scheme?</p>	<p>(Yes 52 No 5) Overall a very positive response. Indication of the procedures to follow with the emphasis on clear and simple instruction was requested.</p>
<p>MEMBERSHIP – ELECTED MEMBERS DGC has received comments regarding the membership of Elected Members on Community Councils.</p>	<p>Should the Scheme prohibit existing members of DGC from standing for election for a Community Council – whether in the area they represent or another area, for example where they live?</p>	<p>(Yes 51 No 6) Overall feedback supported a clear conflict of interest</p>
<p>The existing DGC Scheme states that Elected members of DGC whose area of representation includes any part of the CC area shall be Ex-Officio members with no entitlement to vote, hold office or be a representative or delegate on its behalf.</p>	<p>Should the Scheme allow Elected Members of Community Councils who are then elected to Dumfries and Galloway Council to complete their term as a Community Councillor?</p>	<p>(Yes 12 No 44) Overall agreement to stand down when elected to DGC. Clear indication of this could be included in the nomination process for Elected Members, therefore avoiding any unnecessary confusion.</p>

	Or should they be required to 'stand down' on election to Dumfries and Galloway Council?	(Yes 47 No 10) Standing down from Community Council duties would be preferred, however, supporting CC's as an Ex-Officio member would still stand.
The Scottish Government Model Scheme allows elected Members of local authority and members of the Scottish, European Parliaments to become ex-officio members with no voting rights.	Should it be permitted for a Dumfries and Galloway Council Member to be co-opted on to a Community Council so long as it is not one covered by his or her ward? For example, if the Councillor lives in a different place from the ward he or she represents?	(Yes 27 No 25) With no clear indication of a wider preference, findings lean towards allowing elected Members to participate in Community Councils out-with the ward they represent. Clarification of role would be required to avoid a conflict of interest.

TERMS OF OFFICE The existing Scheme suggests as good practice a maximum of four consecutive years for office bearer roles. Proposed amendments have been received to reduce this to three years.	Should the Scheme retain the suggestion of four consecutive years as good practice?	(Yes 39 No 10) Keeping in line with elections and retaining the current four years was preferred.
The Scottish Government Model Scheme allows office bearers to be in post from one ordinary election to the next with no time limit, provided all election criteria is met.	Should the Scheme be amended to three consecutive years?	(Yes 4 No 45)
	Should there be no time limit for Office Bearers?	(Yes 27 No 25) By deleting reference in the Scheme to a time limit for Office Bearers this would help with the challenge of filling Office Bearer vacancies. This appears to be an ongoing issue for many Community Councils.
	Should the Scheme be increased to 5 years if the Community Council term is increased?	(Yes 34 No 19) Keeping time periods in line with local elections would be preferred. However,

		stating a maximum term would also be helpful.
The existing Scheme states that the numbers of co-opted members may not exceed half of the current elected community council membership.	Should the Scheme retain the existing position of one half of the elected membership being co-opted members?	(Yes 18 No 38) Overall preference for a change to the existing procedure was recorded.
Feedback from Phases 1 & 2 propose amending the number of co-opted members to not exceeding one third of the current elected community council membership. The Scottish Government Model Scheme has co-opted members with full voting rights being one third of the current elected membership.	Should the Scheme be amended to allow one third of the elected membership to be co-opted members?	(Yes 50 No 6) Overall support to change to one third therefore keeping in line with the Scottish Model and adopting good practice.
ELECTIONS The Scottish Government Model Scheme allows vacancies to be filled through co-option or Interim elections. An interim Election allows Community Councils to continue to function whilst an election is carried out to fill vacancies that arise between scheduled elections.	Do you agree that the current Scheme should be amended to include Interim elections?	(Yes 55 No 2) Overall support to change the current procedure and viewed as a positive way forward in supporting Community Councils.
FREQUENCY OF ELECTIONS The existing Scheme requires ordinary elections to be held every 4 years. The Scottish Government are currently consulting on <u>Electoral Reform</u> . This consultation includes consideration if the term length for the Scottish Parliament and Local Government.	Should the frequency of Community Council elections change if the frequency of local government elections increases from 4 to 5 years?	(Yes 49 No 7) Keeping everything in line with the government was the preferred option.
MINIMUM NUMBERS A wide range of feedback in Phases 1 & 2 has been received on this issue. Good governance suggests 5 as a minimum number would be best practice. DGC is mindful that small Community Councils face challenges in attracting members. It is proposed that for populations of less than 1,000 the minimum number shall be 4. For all Community Councils with a population of over 1,001 it shall be 5.	Do you agree that for populations of less than 1,000 the minimum number should be 4 and for all others it should be 5?	(Yes 52 No 2) Overall support for change with clarity requested on population numbers. Do they refer to the actual population or electoral roll?