

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

ECCLESMACHAN & THREEMILETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL – MAXIMUM PRESCRIBED NUMBERS

REPORT BY HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval to increase the maximum prescribed number of community councillors allowed on Ecclesmachan & Threemiletown Community Council from 8 to 12 members.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council Executive approves the increase in the maximum prescribed number of members from 8 to 12 members.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.
VII Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII Other consultations	Ward Councillors were consulted. Comments received were supportive of the community council's request to increase their numbers.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

When Ecclesmachan & Threemiletown was re-established during the October 2021 Community Council Elections, their maximum prescribed number of members was set at 8 in accordance with the 2021 Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils.

During the elections, a total of 8 nominations were received for 8 places. Since being formally re-established, the Community Council has appointed 3 associate members. Those associate members could not be co-opted to the Community Council as there were and are, currently, no vacancies on the Community Council. In order to allow associate members to get fully involved in the work of the Community Council, the Community Council has asked West Lothian Council to increase their prescribed numbers from 8 to 12. In terms of the Scheme, associate members cannot be office-bearers and are unable to move motions or amendments.

The Scheme sets the minimum number of members on any community council at 4 with the maximum size based upon population size. The Scheme states that West Lothian Council has the power to alter the approved size of individual community councils, however they must consist of a maximum of either 8, 12 or 18 members.

It is recommended that the maximum prescribed number of members on Ecclesmachan & Threemiletown Community Council be increased to 12 members in accordance with the Community Council's wishes, and in accordance with the Scheme. The Community Council will be able to co-opt a further member in due course to the remaining vacancy.

The Ward Councillors for Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh and Linlithgow Wards have been consulted. Comments received acknowledged the necessity for the increase in the maximum number of members to 12, and were supportive of the Community Council's request to increase their numbers.

E. CONCLUSION

It is important that the council acts to support the continued development of community councils across West Lothian.

Increasing the prescribed number of members on Ecclesmachan & Threemiletown Community Council will ensure that more local people are able to get fully involved and support the work of the community council moving forward.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

2021 Scheme for Establishment of Community Council in West Lothian – approved by West Lothian Council on 31st August 2021.

Appendices/Attachments: None.

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18th January 2022