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Date of Document	25/06/12
Originator	Lilian Pryde
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Document Title	Amendment to East Lothian Scheme for Community Councils

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Cabinet

Additional information:

This report was approved in accordance with summer recess arrangements.

Authorised By	Lel Gillingwater
Designation	Democratic Services Manager
Date	31/07/12

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Library Reference	201/12
Date Received	31/07/12
Bulletin	Jul12

REPORT TO: Cabinet (under summer recess arrangements - S43 Standing Orders)

MEETING DATE:

BY: Executive Director (Support Services)

SUBJECT: Amendment to East Lothian Council Scheme for Community Councils

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To secure approval for a small amendment to East Lothian Council Scheme for Community Councils, enabling implementation at the next community council elections on 4 October 2012.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 North Berwick Community Council area shall become one whole community council area, instead of being divided into two sub wards, as it is currently.
- 2.2 To note the proposed timetable for the forthcoming community council elections on 4 October 2012.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 North Berwick Community Council area has always been divided into two wards – one being the town and the other being the rural outskirts. At recent community council elections, no one has ever come forward from the rural ward, therefore it has always been necessary to appoint someone from the town ward to fill this vacancy.
- 3.2 Existing members of North Berwick Community Council have requested that this unnecessary and unhelpful sub division be deleted before the forthcoming community council elections on 4 October 2012.
- 3.3 Following statutory public consultation of this proposed amendment, no further representations were received.

3.4 Community Council Elections 4 October 2012.

A summarised timetable of key events is as follows:

- Publication of Notice of Election & issue of nomination papers 27 August
- Last day for lodging and withdrawal of nomination papers 14 September
- Publication of Notice of Poll & Statement of Nominees 17 September
- Polling Day 4 October

3.5 A communications strategy is being put in place, to assist with the promotion of the elections.

In conjunction with the Association of East Lothian Community Councils, it is proposed to hold a briefing for candidates on 20 August.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct policy implications for the council, although the implementation of a communications strategy will contribute to promoting democratic participation.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial – there will be costs associated with the administration of these elections, in respect of the communications strategy, production of stationery, ballot papers and postal costs for any contests. No specific provision was made within the approved 2012/13 revenue budget, although it is hoped that, if the number of actual contests is in line with previous occasions, the associated costs can be accommodated within approved budgets for Council Resources.

6.2 Personnel - the council's Election Team will support and administer all aspects of the community council elections.

6.3 Other – none.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Background papers are available to members on request.

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DATE	26 June 2012