

## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

28 February 2018

## ELECTORAL REFORM IN SCOTLAND – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Report by the Depute Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report proposes a response to the questions in the Scottish Government's consultation paper on electoral reform published in December 2017.

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Scottish Government's 2016-2017 Programme for Government included a commitment to take forward a consultation exercise to find out what electoral reform Scottish citizens would like to see taken forward in future legislation. On 19 December 2017, the Scottish Government launched a consultation paper to explore possible electoral reforms. The consultation paper is available at - <https://consult.gov.scot/elections/electoral-reform/>. Responses are to be submitted by 12 March 2018.
- 1.2 The consultation paper seeks to elicit views on a number of issues related to local government and Scottish Parliament elections including –
- how often these elections should be held;
  - who runs these and how they are run;
  - who can register and vote; and
  - who may stand for election.

**2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 There are 25 questions in the consultation paper and these are posed in such a way as to gain responses from different stakeholders in the electoral process e.g. voters; elected representatives; political parties; election practitioners.
- 2.2 Given the broad range of questions, the Council may consider that some are more relevant to the Council's interest and to local government elections. However, a proposed response to each of the questions is contained at **Appendix 1** to this report for consideration by the Council.

**3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Scottish Government's current consultation exercise on electoral reform poses a number of questions in relation to the future of local government and Scottish Parliament elections.

3.2 It is recommended that the Council:-

- (a) consider the proposed response to questions in the Scottish Government consultation paper on electoral reform contained at Appendix 1 to this report; and
- (b) instruct the Head of Democratic Services to submit the Council's response to Scottish Government by 12 March 2018.

**Author**

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**Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>None</b>
Workforce	<b>None</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>None</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>None</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>None</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>None</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>None</b>
Risk	<b>None</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>None</b>
External	<b>None</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>None</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals support the delivery of the priorities in the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement.

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The proposals support the achievement of the priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan.

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

- 2.1 N/A

#### Workforce

- 2.2 N/A

#### Asset Management

- 2.3 N/A

### **3. Assessments**

#### Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 N/A

#### Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 N/A

#### Sustainability

3.3 N/A

#### Legal and Governance

3.4 N/A

#### Risk

3.5 N/A

### **4. Consultation**

#### Internal

4.1 N/A

#### External

4.2 N/A

### **5. Communication**

5.1 N/A

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A

## **3. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Proposed response to Scottish Government Consultation Paper on Electoral Reform