

REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 14 DECEMBER 2021

COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARY CHANGES

1. Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 This report presents a request from Echt & Skene Community Council for a boundary change between it and Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council. It also provides details of the responses to a consultation held on the proposal.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

2.1 acknowledge the request for a boundary change from Echt & Skene Community Council; and

2.2 agree to the proposed change as detailed within Appendix 1 to the report

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 The Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils was adopted in April 2018. When the current Scheme was approved by Full Council, it instructed that a light touch assessment take place in January 2019. This was commenced and all Community Councils were contacted one year after the adoption of the Scheme seeking their views regarding the Scheme and its use in practice.
- 3.2 Following this light touch review it was agreed by Full Council at the meeting on 21 November 2019 that a review and update of the Scheme would take place. Three specific consultation phases are required by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 when making any change to the Scheme and the first of these phases requires a consultation to take place regarding the area and composition/disposition of Community Councils.
- 3.3 The first consultation commenced on 17 August 2020 and ended on 19 October 2020, with the responses to that consultation being reported to Full Council on 19 November 2020. This report clearly stated that any request for boundary changes made by Community Councils would be consulted upon by the appropriate Area Office with a report being brought to the relevant Area Committee following the close of the consultation for a decision to be taken on the proposal.
- 3.4 As part of the area of Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council falls within the Garioch Area the decision requires to be taken by both Marr and Garioch Area Committee. If the Area Committees come to a different conclusion, the proposals will be taken to Full Council for determination.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 As part of the consultation for stage 1 of the review of the Scheme a request was submitted by Echt and Skene Community Council (ESCC) for a change to its boundary. The reasons for the proposed boundary change provided by Echt and Skene Community Council were:-

Echt and Skene Community Council believes the boundaries should be adjusted so that the area to the north of Dunecht village becomes part of ESCC rather than Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk CC. It makes more sense for this area to be part of ESCC since:

1. Bid site GR094 was proposed as an extension of Dunecht village for the 2017 and 2021 LDPs
2. Parents at Dunecht School are currently seeking to create a new core path to provide a safe route to school along the north side of the Kinnernie Burn with a potential extension to Lyne of Skene as well.
3. The properties within this area are within the catchment for Dunecht School and the residents take part in community activities in Lyne of Skene and Dunecht.

We feel that the houses at Hill of Corskie, Bogentory and all of those along the B977 between Dunecht and Lyne of Skene should be in Echt & Skene, along with Castle Fraser Moss. Our suggested re-drawing of the boundary is shown in **Appendix 1**.

- 4.2 The consultation for the change of boundaries was delayed firstly through a decision not to consult in a particularly difficult period of the Covid-19 pandemic and then as a result of staffing pressures in the Garioch Area Office. Contact was made with the Chairs of both Community Councils to make them aware of the consultation and discuss arrangements. The consultation commenced on 7 October 2021 for a period of just over 6 weeks and closed on Friday 19 November 2021. This consultation was promoted through social media channels and by the Community Councils in their local areas.
- 4.3 At the close of the consultation on 19 November only 2 responses had been received. Both responses indicated that they were in agreement with the proposals and both came from residents in the Echt & Skene Community Council area. One comment was received, "The boundary change seems very sensible since Dunecht is a major centre in the ESCC jurisdiction"
- 4.4 Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council has indicated that it is supportive of the proposed boundary change with Echt & Skene Community Council
- 4.5 As previously indicated the Monymusk area of Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council falls within the Marr Area, but the proposed change of boundary only affects land adjacent to Dunecht which falls entirely within the

Garioch Area. The proposed change will result in a small number of residences previously represented by Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council being represented by Echt and Skene Community Council instead. The proposed change is contained within Electoral Ward 13 – Westhill and District and would have no impact on Councillor representation on either Community Council.

- 4.6 Reference is made in the submission from Echt and Skene Community Council to the bid site in the Local Development Plan. Although not included as an allocated site in the current or emerging Local Development Plan, Officers in the Planning Service have confirmed that it would be seen as an area of land that could reasonably be considered for future expansion of Dunecht, should a need arise.
- 4.7 Given all of the information provided and the relatively small scale changes proposed, it is recommended that the Area Committee agrees to the change of boundary as proposed.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps delivery strategic priority Our Environment – Resilient communities having the right people in the right place.
- 5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply

| Subject | Yes | No | N/A |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|
| Financial | | X | |
| Staffing | | X | |
| Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland | | X | |
| Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing | | | X |
| Climate Change and Sustainability | | | X |
| Health and Wellbeing | | | X |
| Town Centre First | | | X |

- 5.3 There are no direct staffing or financial implications.
- 5.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken as the proposals would see the representative community council change for a small number of properties in and area close to Dunecht. Residents will still have access to a Community Council and there is no change to access to services and amenities.

5.5 No risks have been identified as a result of the proposals in this report.

6 Scheme of Governance

6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

6.2 This Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.3.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to changes to Community Council boundaries within its Area. However, as Cluny Midmar and Monymusk Community Council area covers more than one area, namely Marr and Garioch, if both the Marr and Garioch Area Committees do not accord in their decisions on the proposal the item shall be referred to Full Council for determination.

Laurence Findlay
Director of Education and Children's Services

Report prepared by Alison Cumming, Area Committee Officer
Date: 23 November 2021

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Map of proposed boundary change

Appendix 1 – Map of proposed boundary change

