

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 8 MARCH 2004**  
**REPORT ON: GIVING VOICE TO COMMUNITIES: EXTENDING RECOGNITION TO NEIGHBOURHOOD REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURES IN DUNDEE**  
**REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES**  
**REPORT NO: 194-2004**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides Committee with a progress report on the development of Neighbourhood Representative Structures following the approval of a Committee Report No 725-2002 in November 2002.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Communities Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 note the recognition of Ardler Village Trust and Stobswell Forum as neighbourhood representative structures and recognise the potential for further development.
- 2.2 note the corresponding increase in the number of Community Councils established in Dundee.
- 2.3 agree to continued support for the development of new neighbourhood representative structures in targeted neighbourhoods across the City of Dundee.
- 2.4 instruct the Head of Communities to return to Committee in 12 months with a report detailing further progress on this strategy.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no additional direct revenue costs arising from these recommendations outwith provision which cannot be contained within the Communities Department's existing revenue budget.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The report and its recommendations address the following themes:
- All sections of the community are empowered to participate in decision-making.
  - Engagement in the political process, and representation of interests.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The process of increasing and extending community representation in Dundee will encourage and recognise diversity and will enable a wider range of citizens to become involved in matters affecting their local neighbourhoods and communities of interest.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

Committee Report No 725-2002 agreed that:

- 6.1 the Revised Scheme For The Operation Of Community Councils, the Committee and a process for extending recognition to other representative organisations.
- 6.2 the criteria for recognising other neighbourhood representative structures.
- 6.3 organisations satisfying the recognition criteria, and having received formal City Council recognition, qualify for access to support, information and consultation from all Council Departments, along similar lines to those afforded to Community Councils.

## **7.0 PROGRESS**

- 7.1 Following the approval of Committee Report No 725-2002, Stobswell Forum and Ardler Village Trust have been established as recognised neighbourhood representative structures.
- 7.2 Neighbourhood representative structures in Whitfield and Mid Craigie and Linlathen have expressed an interest in working towards formal recognition.
- 7.3 Douglas, Mill O' Mains, Kirkton and St Mary's have all been identified as potential areas for the future development of neighbourhood representative structures.
- 7.4 By engaging communities in dialogue about the development of neighbourhood representative structures, two new Community Councils have been established during the last 12 months. Menzieshill, Balgay, Denhead of Grey and Benvie Community Council in May 2003 and the City Centre and Harbour Area Community Council in February 2004. Local residents from Hilltown area have gathered 20 names on a petition, to establish a Community Council for their area.
- 7.5 Once the Hilltown Community Council has been established, the number of Community Councils operating in the Dundee area will have doubled in less than a year and the total number of representative structures will have risen from three to eight.
- 7.6 There are indications that over the next two years, community interest may result in the establishment of representative structures in 14 out of 19 Community Council areas. This would represent an almost 60% increase in the number of representative structures operating in Community Council areas across Dundee.

## **8.0 CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Director of Education.

## **9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

**Stewart Murdoch**  
**Head of Communities**

**27 February 2004**