

**ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CONSULTATIONS REPORT
OCTOBER 2017**

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

- a) **Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils – Dumfries & Galloway Council.** Closing date: 27 October 2017

Community Councils in Dumfries and Galloway are governed by the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. The Scheme details how Community Councils operate including elections, meetings, boundaries and finance. Earlier this year the Council carried out a first phase of consultation on a review of the Scheme.

The second phase of the consultation is now open, seeking comments on the proposed amendments to the Scheme (see Appendix). The consultation is available from the DGC website at www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16608/Review-of-Scheme-for-the-Establishment-of-Community-Councils.

There are almost 50 proposed amendments and, like with the first phase, it is suggested that a small working party come together to discuss and agree comments. The previous group members were Jak Kane, Nick Walker and Joe McKeown.

- b) **Guidance for Local Authorities when carrying out their new duties and functions under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 - Scottish Government,** Closing date: 17 November 2017

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, was brought forward with the aim of empowering communities by boosting the rights of community bodies and placing new duties and functions on public sector authorities.

The implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 will help empower communities across Scotland and will increase access to land for food growing purposes, be that on allotments or any other Grow-Your-Own initiatives.

This consultation, developed in partnership by a Tripartite Group consisting of local authorities, the Scottish Allotments & Gardens Society and Scottish Government, represents the next phase of updating the legislation on allotments. Much of what is contained within Part 9 can be taken at face value but SG is looking for views on what further guidance could be beneficial and what it might look like.

The online consultation specifically looks at the proposed wording of 10 sections of the guidance and consultees are asked to what extent they agree with the wording with an opportunity to add a comment. [Begin Consultation](#) here.

- c) **Consultation on Free Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People and Modern Apprentices – Scottish Government.** Closing date: 17 November 2017

The concessionary travel scheme for older and disabled people (“the Scheme”) improves access for older and disabled people to essential services and opens up participation in family and other social activities that would otherwise not be affordable, ultimately offering independence to people who rely on bus travel.

This Consultation seeks views on options to ensure the longer-term sustainability of the scheme so that free bus travel can continue to benefit those who have the greatest need (by increasing eligibility age from 60). They also asking for views on a proposal to provide free bus travel to Modern Apprentices and how that might be taken forward and the provision of free companion travel for eligible disabled children under five who are not currently covered by the Scheme.

This consultation is of import because our local bus provision is reliant on the financial support received from this Scheme. [Download the consultation paper](#).

- d) **Local Bus Services in Scotland – Improving the Framework for Delivery –**

Scottish Government. Closing date: 5 December 2017

Bus services are important to the people of Scotland with around 400 million (three quarters of all public transport) journeys made by bus. However, the sector faces significant challenges with the overall number of passenger journeys decreasing and service cutbacks in some places which can leave communities without a public transport option.

The Scottish Government sets the framework of options for local authorities (and RTPs, where appropriate) to improve bus provision. They are looking at ways that this framework can be improved to make it more flexible and viable, whether a transport authority wishes to pursue partnership working, local franchising or even running their own buses. They recognise that buses are a local service and work best when they are tailored to meet local needs and circumstances.

While Local bus services are vital to this area, the consultation document (and indeed many of the opinions considered) appears more relevant to the Central belt with any references to South West Scotland including Strathclyde. Download the consultation document [here](#).

FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS

No Forthcoming Consultation