

Constitution

7. Casual Vacancies on the Community Council

Where, a vacancy arises which does not result in the number of COMMUNITY COUNCIL members falling below the minimum number as specified in paragraph 5 of the Scheme, the COMMUNITY COUNCIL may, if it considers it to be desirable, agree to:-

(a) an extraordinary general meeting be held in order that the vacancy (and any other outstanding vacancies) can be filled, on the basis that such vacancies would be publicised, nominations invited and an election held where the number of candidates exceeded the number of places available. Such interim elections will be administered with guidance from the local authority.

(b) the filling of a vacancy by co-option with voting rights to a maximum of one third of the total membership of the community council as governed by paragraph 6 of the Scheme.

Co-opted representatives may be appointed by the passing of a motion to that effect at a community council meeting, proposed and seconded by other elected and nominated members of the community council.

(c) the vacancy to be left unfilled until local public interest is expressed or until the next set of regular elections.

Scheme for Community Councils

Filling of casual places/vacancies for elected members between elections

Casual vacancies on a community council may arise in the following circumstances:

- Death of an elected community council member;
- When an elected community council member submits her/his resignation;
- When an elected community council member ceases to be resident within the community council area;

- When an elected community council member has her/his membership disqualified;
- Unreasonable non-attendance by an elected community council member at meetings for a period of six months.

If vacancies arise on a community council between elections, it will be at the discretion of the community council whether to fill the vacancy. Filling a vacancy can be undertaken either through the process of co-option or depending on circumstances, by an interim election. However, should circumstances arise that leads to the number of elected community council members to fall below HALF of the maximum permitted elected membership, the City of Edinburgh Council shall be informed and shall make arrangements for an interim election to be held.

Guidance on the procedure for the filling of casual vacancies is contained within the model constitution.

Co-opting members through the casual vacancy process

Members who are co-opted through the casual vacancy process must be eligible for membership of the community council as detailed in Section 5 of the Community Council Scheme. They must be elected onto the community council by a two-thirds majority of the elected and nominated community council members present. Such co-opted members shall have full voting rights, with the exception of voting on co-option of new members, and will serve until the next round of elections.

The number of co-opted members may not exceed a THIRD of the maximum permitted elected community council membership.