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| If there is a resignation during the term, it would be desirable to be able to elect an interested and suitable candidate for the duration of the term. Without having to go through hoops to do so. |
| It is important that the majority of Community councils are elected, although co-option should be available. |
| Having been supportive of the concept of Top-Up Elections I now believe that if the cases of the Interim Election could be altered to allow for a CC to request an Interim Election in circumstances where either the overall number of CC members has dropped or are at risk of dropping to too low a level to allow for the effective operation of the CC or if the balance between elected CC members and Co-opted Members has again reached a point which would prejudice the operation of the CC then this would be a simpler arrangement giving the CC's maximum flexibility. |
| 8.9 I like the idea of top up elections but would only like to see them called if there two or more vacancies, as I won't want to do election unless necessary as it would distract from cc business. |
| Ref: Para. 8 (Top-Up Elections), casual "vacancies arising since a regular or interim election" are only vacancies if the place has not been filled by co-option. Therefore, the only way a vacancy can be created is if the co-opted member is required to stand down. As previously submitted, this is not something that MCC supports. A co-opted member should be allowed to remain on the CC until the next Regular (or Interim) Election. We do not believe that Sec. 8 of the proposed draft Scheme (referenced in Q. 8 below) adequately deals with this issue. However, should the Council decide to go ahead and adopt the current Scheme proposal for Top-Up Elections to fill casual vacancies, then what is the proposed procedure by which a co-opted member would be required to stand down, in order to re-create the required vacancy? Further, at what point in time would a co-opted member be required to do so? |
| Further to our meeting on Monday, MCC would be grateful if the following additional comments could be noted, in terms of our input to the consultation. MCC would be happy if the term 'Top-up Election' was dropped and only the term 'Interim Election' used, moving forward, particularly, as we were unaware that Interim Elections could be used to fill vacant positions, at any time, even if a CC has not fallen below the operating minimum membership number. If this is agreed, then the wording in sections 8.9, 8.10 and 8.11 would require to be changed accordingly. |
| should a vacancy arise close to the date of a Top-Up Election (say, in the September), a CC may decide not to take “immediate steps” to co-opt a member to fill a casual vacancy, for that individual, potentially, to participate in one, at the most, two CC meetings prior to being required to stand down for an election taking place!! The wording in Para. 8.12 need to be amended, and / or ‘conditions’ added, to reflect this situation. |
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| What if the CC in question is in breach of its governance framework, and is subsequently suspended by the Council, but has the full support of the community it represents? How will this CC be dissolved!? What is the documented process that the Council will follow to determine whether a CC should be dissolved against the wishes of the community? |
| **Generally, in what direction do you think community councils should be moving in order to fulfill their function meaningfully? In what type of activity do you think they will be the most relevant in the future?**  Is this not already covered in Secs. 2 and 3 of the proposed draft Scheme? |