**Area Forum Membership**

Community Councils in several local authority areas across Scotland have formed themselves into Forums or Associations. Forums tend to receive support from the local authority, either through grant funding, or more typically through in-kind support in the form of staff time, venue provision, and administrative resourcing.

**Why have a Community Council Forum?**

A Community Council Forum can be a support group for all Community Councils within a local authority area - particularly those who are newly established - providing an informal source of knowledge and experience. It can also enable its constituent members to exchange information, and to identify common issues. By working together, Community Councils can amplify their voices and advocate more effectively for their neighbourhoods. Joint forums can also facilitate communication and build relationships between different community groups, helping to create a more cohesive and connected community. Forums can provide a channel for Community Councils to act together.

**What does a Community Council Forum do?**

The typical aims of a Community Council Forum are:

• Promote the role, effectiveness and status of Community Councils

• Facilitate communication and collaboration between different Community Councils

• Share information and resources about local issues and concerns

• Enhance the capacity of Community Councils to effectively represent their neighbourhoods and address local concerns

• Be a voice for Community Councils within a local authority area

• Provide a forum for discussion of matters of common interest to Community Councils

• Consult with representatives of Community Councils in other areas on matters of mutual interest

• Promote civic engagement and participation in local government in partnership with the local authority and other public agencies

• Identify opportunities for joint initiatives or projects that can improve the quality of life in the community

• Foster a sense of community and belonging among residents and

• Provide a platform for residents to voice their concerns and have their voices heard by local decision-makers