To Scottish Parliament

On behalf of Polmont Community Council, we would like to raise the following concerns regarding the Community Empowerment Bill.

1 Right to buy:
We feel that this aspect of the Bill is unnecessary as we already have the power to buy land or property given funding and the wish to do so.

2 Right to take over services:
We feel that it is not the role of a Community Council to take over existing Council services but to support, enhance and consult on services which affect the residents of our community.

3 Common Good:
We feel that, given the transient nature of membership of Community Councils, it would be inappropriate to take on long term responsibilities of guardianship and security of commonly held resources.

4 Equality Impact Assessment:
While we welcome the positive outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment on the Bill, we would have concerns if every Community Council had to conduct its own Equality Impact Assessment, as this is a specialised process which would require training, resources and support.

While we are committed to our communities, we are apprehensive about taking on additional responsibilities and long term commitments.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Taylor

Convener Polmont Community Council