

# MINUTES OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY WORKING GROUP

Wednesday, 26 September 2018 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Kevin Bonavia (Chair), Chris Best, Patrick Codd, Colin Elliott, Alex Feis-Bryce and Aisling Gallagher

ALSO PRESENT: Salena Mulhere, Kath Nicholson and Rosalind Jeffrey

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sakina Sheikh and Councillor Juliet Campbell

## 1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Head of Law opened the meeting and invited nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. The Working Group unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Bonavia as Chair and Councillor Sheikh as Vice Chair.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. Delivering the Local Democracy Review: Introductory Report

Salena Mulhere (SGM Inter-Agency Service Development & Integration) presented the report and drew the Working Group's attention to the following key areas:

- Proposed timeline for the review (section 5.2)
- The Council's current arrangements for openness and transparency, public involvement in decision-making and effective decision-making (section 7)
- Potential areas of focus for the review (section 8)
- Proposed communication and consultation plan (section 9)

The following points were highlighted in the following discussion:

- Concerns were raised about the amount of time required by during the evidence-gathering phase. The Chair advised that other councillors could also provide support during this phase and officers will support with arrangements.
- The Working Group will review the events timetable and confirm their attendance at a minimum of three events (as well as identifying any additional events taking place in their ward)
- The areas of focus for the review should include the ways in which the Council can support and encourage public involvement in decision-making

Darren Bindloss (interim Head of Communications) presented an update on the communication and consultation plan. The following points were highlighted in the discussion:

- Review materials should be available in accessible formats wherever possible
- Equalities monitoring information will be captured as part of the online survey

- The Communications team will explore the feasibility of introducing email signatures promoting the review for officers and councillors
- Lewisham Young Advisors will design and deliver a series of workshops in schools as part of the review

RESOLVED: The Working Group agreed the proposed timeline for the review.

RESOLVED: The Working Group noted the Council's current arrangements for openness and transparency, public involvement in decision-making and effective decision-making.

RESOLVED: The Working Group agreed the amended areas of focus for the review.

RESOLVED: The Working Group agreed the proposed communication and consultation plan.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.48pm.