

## **APPENDIX A – ENGAGEMENT WITH EXPERT ORGANISATIONS**

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The Local Democracy Review has engaged with a wide range of expert organisations as part of its work.

### **Informal Exploratory Discussions**

- National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts (Nesta) – telephone call on 24<sup>th</sup> October
- Local Government Information Unit (LGiU) – telephone call on 24<sup>th</sup> October
- Democratic Society – telephone call on 31<sup>st</sup> October
- Local Government Association (LGA) – telephone call on 31<sup>st</sup> October
- Kirklees Council – telephone call on 7<sup>th</sup> November
- Local Governance Research Unit, De Montfort University (Professor Colin Copus) – telephone call on 7<sup>th</sup> November
- FutureGov – telephone call on 7<sup>th</sup> November
- Goldsmiths, University of London (Dr Simon Griffiths) – telephone call on 9<sup>th</sup> November
- Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) – telephone call on 16<sup>th</sup> November
- Lord Kerslake (President of the LGA) – meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November

### **Facilitated Sessions**

The Local Democracy Review Working Group also took part in two half-day workshops (held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019) which were facilitated by LGiU and Kirklees Council respectively. The purpose of these workshops was to review all the evidence gathered in order to inform the development of the final report and recommendations. In addition, the Working Group held a roundtable discussion with the Mayor of Hackney and senior officers from Hackney Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, which focused on the key review themes (openness & transparency, public involvement in decision-making and effective decision-making) as well as insights as to the approach and challenges faced by Hackney.

### **Expert Evidence**

Nesta provided the review with a written submission regarding current approaches to digital democracy in January 2019 (Appendix I). In order to set the Democracy Review recommendations in a wider academic context, Professor Colin Copus from the Local Governance Research Unit at De Montfort University was commissioned to undertake a literature review (Appendix B) and Dr Simon Griffiths from Goldsmiths, University of London gave evidence to the review in person (summarised at Appendix J).