

<b>COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Motion 5 in the name of Councillor Clarke to be seconded by Councillor Elliot	
<b>Key Decision</b>		Item No.
<b>Ward</b>		
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: February 22 2017

### Barriers to Politics Working Group

This Council resolves to establish a time-limited all-party Working Group to examine barriers to those wishing to enter politics as an elected member and, once elected, the barriers to remaining in post or progressing.

This Council notes;

- In 2014 32.7% of councillors and 18.8% of elected mayors were women. 13.1% of council leaders were women. In London 25% of Councils are led by women.
- There is no consistent reporting of the barriers and equality issues facing Councillors and how many are affected.
- Councillors have raised numerous concerns regarding the role of a Councillor including, but not exclusively: hours and the range of responsibilities, anti-social hours, financial issues including loss of benefits, and caring and disability issues.

This Council agree the following terms of reference:

- The Group aims to identify and investigate the various barriers that exist for individuals wishing to apply for, or undertaking the role of Councillor, and to put forward recommendations to Full Council on how to address them.
- The Group will focus on barriers in each equality stream.
- The Working Group will bring a report to Council by September 2017.
- The Group will have the power to invite expert witnesses and to request relevant officers to attend meetings.
- The Group will require appropriate officer time and resources to support its work.