

**THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
BOROUGH AND AREA GOVERNANCE REVIEW PANEL**

**NOTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE PANEL HELD IN THE FREEMAN
SUITE AT KENSINGTON TOWN HALL, LONDON W8 7NX AT 6.30PM ON
TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2019**

Panel Members present:

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell (Co-Chair)

Cllr. Robert Atkinson (Co-Chair)

Cllr. Gerard Hargreaves

Cllr. Walaa Idris

Cllr. Johnny Thalassites

Others in attendance:

The meeting was attended by some seven members of the public and by several other Councillors and Council officers.

A G E N D A

I. Introductions and Apologies

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting and Panel Members introduced themselves. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Monica Press.

Cllr. Robert Atkinson provided a brief summary of the issues raised at the last meeting as follows.

- We heard the views of the Police and CCG about involving people in decision-making and looking at how we can be more joined-up to support change at the council.
- We heard that community development and capacity building was needed to help organisations become more involved in decisions.
- We heard the Council needed to be careful, not to be seen as talking to itself and the people it already knows, but to broaden its engagement.
- We heard the Council needed to ensure its language was simple and 'plain English'.
- We heard that Scrutiny arrangements needed to change so that it became more issues and outcome focused with residents much more involved.

Cllr. Campbell outlined the way the meeting would run.

2. Reviewing what we've heard so far – themed table discussion

Cllr. Campbell invited those present to select a table to join a discussion on one of the following themes:

- (i) The over-arching principles arising from the review
- (ii) Borough-wide Governance arrangements
- (iii) Area Governance

After half an hour, people were encouraged to move to a different discussion table.

The discussions were captured on flipchart paper and put up around the room. After the second half hour, everyone present was given time to walk around and reflect on the flipchart recording of discussions.

The questions along with the flipchart discussions have been typed-up and are attached to these notes.

3. Deliberative Democracy

Ed Hammond, Director at the Centre for Public Scrutiny, invited comments and questions on the slightly updated paper on 'Deliberative Democracy', which was previously circulated at the February meeting and was issued with the agenda and available in the room.

The following main points were noted:

- e-notify should be better used to communicate with people outside the Council.
- There should be easier access and better dissemination of information. Some members of the public still preferred printed copies of committee papers.
- Perhaps the Council had a role to play in educating the elder generation on how to use technology to access information and participate and help them adapt to the modern world.
- The Council should educate and help people on how to complain and raise issues of concern.
- Real 'deliberative democracy' required mass participation. The largest sample mentioned was 250, which was inadequate given a Borough population of 156,000.
- There will be themes/issues which impact the whole Borough and others which are much more local impacting much fewer people. Different participation arrangements need to be available for these different circumstances.
- The reason the vast majority of people do not participate is because many meetings are arranged to meet the needs of, and in a way determined by, the Council, rather than in a way and at a time and place that best suited the people who might want to take part.
- The Council could increase participation through service user involvement and co-design.
- The Council should 'tap into' the knowledge and expertise of local people and existing community groups to increase participation and reach more informed decisions.
- The career progression and reward of Councillors and Council staff should be linked to the demonstration of the new Council values and behaviours, especially around

'working with residents.' Especially good examples should be 'showcased' as best practice for others to follow.

4. Reflections from the Panel

Cllr. Campbell thanked everyone for coming and said she found the discussions and comments helpful.

Cllr. Atkinson said the Panel had to do its homework and look through the submissions made and ensure they are responded to. All submissions to date have been placed on the website.

5. Look ahead to next meeting

The next meeting would take place on 25 April, again in the Freeman Suite, and it would:

- consider the draft recommendations developed in response to what the Panel has heard so far and all the submissions.
- agree what should be presented to Full Council at its meeting in May.

The meeting ended at 8.00pm