

LeithChooses steering group meeting: 2020_07_29, 3pm

1 People

- **Present:** Don Giles, Caroline Lamond, Cllr Susan Rae, Bruce Ryan
- **Apologies:** Sally Miller, Douglas Tharby

2 Electronic methods for PB

Caroline noted that

- Consul has to be yet to be cleared by CEC's 'information governance' and then 'ICT security'.
- Many DPIAs are being pushed through just now.
- COSLA has paused development of Consul due to coronavirus, lockdown etc.
- LC steering group could use Edinburgh Council's 'dialog and consultation hub'.
- Caroline will meet with Evelyn Kilmurry on Monday in the hope of further progress.
- **Decision: LC cannot rely on Consul being ready for decision-making in this 2020-2021 iteration.**
 - **LC needs to use other engagement methods.**
 - **LC should still push for Consul to be completed in time for the 2021-2022 iteration.**

2.a Alternative methods

It was suggested that LC can use Skype, Teams, possibly Zoom and/or Facebook Messenger.

- Cllr Rae suggested that many people and organisations have Facebook pages and hence are likely to know Facebook Messenger. They may not know or be comfortable with other software.
- To minimise bandwidth issues, there could be several online meetings on each topic with (for example) up to 30 participants, **so long as meetings on any topic followed the same agenda.**

3 Action-plan for consulting on themes and decision-making methods

It was noted that

- LC must be very careful and clear on what it promises, not least because we don't know how lockdown will be released, when community centres and libraries will return to normality.
- The LeithChooses area is the Leith Neighbourhood Network area plus the areas of LCCC, LHNCC and LLCC, not just those community councils' area.
- LC steering group does not have capacity to quickly reach enough people in the LeithChooses area to gather their opinions on theme-deciding, voting methods, to get reliable results.
 - This is especially true of the 'hard-to-reach' (who are likely to be those LC wishes to benefit).
 - LC steering group can relatively easily reach groups who applied for LC funding previously.
- There was a heart-felt plea from Caroline that decision-making systems should not use codes.

3.a Schedule

- **Theme-decision meeting(s)** in 4th week of August.
 - **Action: Caroline to compile a list of organisations and their contact details.**
 - **Action: Bruce to draft an agenda, based on the bullet-points in his survey-question suggestions**
 - **Action: LC steering-group to finalise this in time for meeting(s) in 4th week of August.**
 - **Action: Bruce to arrange online meetings.**
- **Supporting projects to fit themes:** September-October
 - **Action: LC steering-group to set up meetings to offer support to projects as in previous years – except that these might be online.**
- **Submission of applications to LC steering group:** end of October
- **Vetting applications:** to finish end of November
 - **Action: LC steering-group to vet applications for fit with themes, as in previous years except this might be done online.**
- **Funding decision-making:** late January (actual data to be agreed)
 - This will be as done much as possible by people living etc in LC area. However, it is quite possible that it won't be by in-person events or voting via libraries, because community centres and libraries may not have re-opened.
 - **Action: Bruce to investigate online decision-making methods**