

Notes on Leith Chooses SG meeting, 26 August 2020

Actions are yellow-highlighted

1 Present

Douglas Tharby, Sally Millar, Caroline Lamond, Don Giles, Bruce Ryan, Susan Rae

2 PB Scotland Conference Workshops

Sally and Don attended conference this morning. They noted:

- Don will circulate the powerpoints from these workshops
- Many local authorities have been / are being active and very go-ahead with PB during lockdown, including use of Consul. Makes Edinburgh look a long way behind.
- North Ayrshire used Consul for voting not just for deliberation. We are in contact with Pam Crosthwaite of North Ayrshire. She is asking their IT Dept. what was involved in implementing it for voting.
- Some authorities have in-house IT while others contract out to a third party company. Edinburgh does not seem to have control of its own IT? Or it's a matter of resources? Or political will? Can we find out if a commitment to progress PB online voting is part of CEC's contract with CGI (or whatever the IT company is called)? Don suggested asking if Edinburgh IT folk could / would talk to N. Ayrshire folk? Who could authorise that? Who should be involved - no point in eg Caroline doing it if CEC IT not willing to cooperate.
- Even with help from N. Ayrshire to CEC, is it appropriate / does the small LC team of volunteers have the capacity to pioneer Consul and take responsibility? Risk of reputational damage to Leith Chooses if things fail.

2.1 Discussion

Sally has sent Scoping paper and text of community survey to David Reilly at ScotGov.

David Reilly has expressed sympathy for the difficulties LC faces and says support is needed for community led processes like ours. Sally & Don will follow up & keep in touch.

3 Survey

- Need to get this out asap
- Final version of text agreed.
- Bruce will set it up in Survey Monkey on Saturday, test on Sunday and Caroline will put out on Monday 31st before going on holiday.

4 Decision-making - Discussion

After the survey [presumably] gives LeithChooses a mandate to do *something* in 2021.

If we go with participatory grant making - lots to work out, e.g.

- Open to all past applicants to LC (since 2017) i.e. charities, community groups etc. but also unconstituted groups (they need to be reminded that they can't apply, but they CAN participate with their views and vote)
- Schools – parent councils, but how can we access Pupil councils (maybe via school librarians?) – really important to get views of young people?
- How to implement boost vote in this context? Important not to lose this. (Young Scot PB research highlighted poor support of BAME groups / projects.)
- We will still need to work out a voting system within the extended panel. How many votes each? 3? Do we ask them to get a 'mandate' for their votes from their members or just views of individuals / office bearers? (We can encourage best practice but we can't enforce it)

Caroline will cancel the booking at Leith Community Centre for in person voting event February 2021

4.1 AOB

ELREC have requested info and help on how to fund / provide technology to low income families that can't afford to buy it. (children being told to 'bring their own laptop / ipad to school'). Sally had replied with info and suggestions, but asked Caroline if there is further guidance from CEC?

Sally pointed out that Edinburgh chose to 'take the money' rather than the technology from a ScotGov multimillion£££ initiative. Where did this money go, for Edinburgh kids? Caroline informed that Alison Dickie Convener of Education Committee would be the authority on this. Sally will write and ask for info & copy in Adam McVey

Caroline advised that People Know How have worked through their backlog and now taking new referrals for refurbished tech. Caroline forwarded info re new fund for technology for 16-30 year olds.

As September comes, time to go back to 2019/2020 project groups and start getting their reports in. They have all had report forms sent but due another mailing soon to remind.

5. Next Meeting 2nd September

Evelyn agrees to attend our next meeting. With Michele Mulvaney? Sally will let them see summary / average costings of LC