Leith Chooses Meeting Notes, 24 June 2026

Present:

- Steering group: Jack, Don, Lisa, Sally, Susan
- Aine

Apologies: Abigail, Bruce, Donna, Jason, Rachel

Items for discussion:

- Terms of Reference
- Boost Vote
- Theme(s) for 2026-2027 LC process (needed soon as applications open in August)

1 Terms of reference (ToR)

- Action: Jack agreed to circulate a Word file version of the ToR as most SG members had had difficulty accessing it.
- Key issues:
  - Agreed that TOR are needed to inform and support new members of SG, and so that the steering group's governance and roles are clear and transparent, and its decisions can be justified in case of queries or challenges.
  - SG should be chaired by elected Councillors. Agreed that Susan is Chair and Jack is Vice-Chair .
  - Agreed that main aim of ToR is NOT *'to enable the steering group to become constituted, so it can apply for funds to disburse via PB apart from the community grants fund (CGF) money (in the light of the forthcoming changes to the CGF, and the forthcoming TVL PB)'*. Becoming a SCIO and fund raising had been considered in the past (and a copy of a partially written Constitution does exist) but eventually rejected as not necessarily being in the primary interests of the SG or core business as regards the LC process and, in practical terms, being beyond the capacity of the (then current) SG. This can be reconsidered in the future at any point, but is meanwhile regarded as having been 'parked'.
  - Agreed that since SG is NOT a SCIO, does not have a bank account and basically does not handle money at all, it would be inappropriate to require to have a Treasurer. Again, as above, this could be revisited if decisions change on following the SCIO route.
  - Agreed that keeping ToR as light touch as possible was desirable rather than locking them down too tightly, e.g. defining every word. The SG in general is against 'heavy admin' and over-rigid 'rules' being introduced just for the sake of it. N.B. the ToR currently does define the word 'significant' (as in, significant issues / decisions)
  - Quorum – agreed that requiring consensus of all steering group members is unrealistic. After discussion, 5 SG members was agreed as a suitable quorum– to be discussed and voted on at future meeting when more than 5 are present! (NB – Aine currently does not have voting rights. Action: she will consider whether or not she wishes to formally join the SG)
  - Action: all steering group members to read, consider and send directly to Bruce and Jack their comments on the draft ToR file that Jack sends round as soon as possible (before next meeting) NB NOT to circulate around multiple copies of edited doc, or edit further online.
  - Action: Bruce to then amend the draft.

2 Boost Vote

- Confirmed that Boost Vote will be continued. (Boost Vote explained to Aine)
- Abigail, Jason and Rachel have not yet reported on their findings re the current Boost Vote Eligibility wording, and were not present to discuss their progress.
- To be discussed at a future meeting asap, when they have reported. Action: Agreed that if they do edit / rewrite the terms, it would be helpful for SG members if they circulate a written copy before the discussion meeting.

3 Theme(s) for next year

- Needs to be decided very soon as applications will be solicited in August.
- Susan proposed waiting to hear CEC campaign plans re promoting 'communication cohesion' following recent racist attacks in the city.
- Discussed various ideas around this theme, eg:
  - Building harmony (good because less jargony, and more general / inclusive)
  - Leith in harmony
  - Greater Leith harmony
- Action: develop more suggestions on this theme
  - Discussed the possible implications of this – possibly too many Boost Vote applicants?

- In spite of such events having been funded in the past, and while recognising the value of 'soft' outcomes, it was agreed that 'Festivals' should not be eligible for LC going forward, as such one-off events have no clear outcomes or even any record of who attended / benefitted – to be supportive and constructive, these can be redirected to the TVR funding process.
    - NB Naomi later advised that this decision isn't within the steering group's gift.
- Discussed the aim of developing a more diverse Steering Group.

4 Topics for next meeting (1st July, 4pm, Library)

- Theme(s)
- Boost vote and voting process

Naomi, Tremaine, Sally not attending next meeting. Naomi and Tremaine proposing to attend on 8th July.