

## **Working Group Conclusions and Recommendations**

- (1) A flexible approach should be taken to CLCs, reflecting differences in the communities they represent: there should not be a one-size fits all approach, and each CLC should be able to run meetings how they wish, including the potential for meetings to be informal or themed around a specific issue. Work programmes should not be rigid and should be adaptable to be able to deal with issues arising during the year. The priority should be on effectiveness not consistency.

## **Structure**

- (2) The current configuration of CLCs should be retained, with 11 CLCs covering the same geographical area as at present. Whilst the Working Group recognised that the changes introduced in May 2017 have had an adverse impact on how well CLCs reflect their communities in Mid Sussex and Arun, it did not feel that reinstating a third CLC in these districts could be justified in the current financial climate.
- (3) The County Council divisions of Lindfield & High Weald and Bourne should each continue to cut across two CLCs (so the two members for these divisions should each continue to sit on two CLCs).
- (4) There should continue to be three CLC meetings per year, with the potential to hold extraordinary meetings to respond to significant local issues, supported by the relevant service area (and not requiring Democratic Services' support).
- (5) The Cabinet Member should liaise with Arun District Council to consider potential improvements to the Joint Area Committees model; whether this is still appropriate and effective and whether any different approaches should be considered.

## **Functions**

- (6) As there is no statutory requirement for the nomination of school governors to be approved by members, it is proposed that the Director for Education and Skills be asked to approve these nominations, in liaison with the relevant local member and that this change to the CLCs' terms of reference be forwarded to County Council for approval on 17 December.

## **Meeting arrangements**

- (7) Talk with Us sessions should take priority, be early on the agenda and be given as long as possible, with time limitations set at the chairman's discretion. Where questions are raised in these sessions that there isn't an officer present to answer, it will be for local member to take up and get back to the resident on this.
- (8) There should be an annual Highways-themed meeting which considers Traffic Regulation Orders and at which Highways Officers will be present. Officer attendance at other meetings (including Highways Officers) should

only be required where there is a relevant agenda item (to be decided at the pre-agenda meeting).

- (9) Communities Officers should continue to attend all CLC meetings and in future should provide a report on activities carried out, underway and planned at each meeting.

### **Crowdfunding**

- (10) The review of contract with Spacehive, the provider of the crowdfunding platform that is used for the allocation of the Community Initiative Fund, should include the implications of the new Micro-fund on the viability of the contract.

### **Other**

- (11) Area profile data should be provided to all members annually, use of which will include informing CIF allocations.
- (12) Hints and tips/guidance should be produced by Democratic Services capturing different ways of working as a toolkit for CLC members and chairmen. This should include options for carrying out work planning, ways of engaging public, meeting format and engagement with town/parish councils as appropriate.
- (13) CLC Chairmen's meetings should become an annual meeting to review the work of CLCs over the year and share best practice. All members should be invited to attend.