

DRAFT

DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

4 FEBRUARY, 2010

MEMBERSHIP OF THE DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

(A) Appointment of up to seven individual representatives with disabilities

With reference to article 8 of the minute of the meeting of the Disability Advisory Group of 26 November, 2009, and article 10 of the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee of 8 December, 2009, the Group heard from Roddy MacTaggart, Strategist, Community Planning and Regeneration, who advised that as discussed at the last meeting of the Group the Council's Corporate Policy and Performance Committee at its meeting on 8 December, 2009, had considered a report on the review of the membership of the Group.

He explained that as requested at the last meeting of the Group, he had advised the Committee that the Group, on consideration of the report, and its proposals had expressed concern at the balance of representation on the Steering Group and the lack of places proposed for individual members of the Group who would not otherwise be represented by a public or voluntary sector organisation, and that in light of the concerns raised they had requested that he present a second option for consideration by the Committee. As such he had presented the following alternative option to the Committee, which proposed that the representation of the Steering Group comprise up to seven individual representatives with disabilities who would be elected at the bi-annual Forum meeting; up to five elected members; and up to seven representatives of public and voluntary sector organisations working for and advocating on behalf of people with disabilities (with the facility to co-opt others as required). The additional representatives would be co-opted at particular meetings only for discussion of specific items in their field of expertise. This option was approved by the Committee.

Further to this, members discussed extensively the decision by the Committee wherein a range of views were presented. In particular the important and valuable role that individuals with disabilities provided to the Group was highlighted as was the negative impact and the loss of valuable experience and knowledge which would occur from reducing the number to seven would have on the Group. The role that organisations who represent disabilities would play on the Group was also discussed wherein it was emphasised that organisations would consult with a large proportion of the disabled community on a range of issues and would feedback their thoughts and opinions to the Group on an ongoing basis. During the discussion, Roddy MacTaggart

highlighted to those present that the proposals had also agreed to the establishment of a Forum that would meet approximately twice yearly. All individuals with disabilities would be invited to attend the Forum and the issues discussed would be formally passed to the Group for discussion and progression.

Further to the discussion, the Chairperson called for nominations for up to seven individual representatives with disabilities; at which time the following eight nominations were received:-

- Alastair Williamson
- Stanley Flett
- Agnes Stewart
- Anne Anderson
- Mary Rasmussen
- Dr Jim Webster
- Ian Stones
- Douglas McPhelm

Thereafter, the Clerk advised that as eight nominations had been received a ballot would have to be held to select the seven individuals unless one of the nominations received withdrew.

At this point Councillor Ironside proposed that the Group advise the Corporate Policy and performance Committee of the eight nominations and in light of the valuable contribution that individuals make to the Group, to recommend to the Committee that they amend the membership of the Group to state up to 8 individuals with disabilities. Those members present were in agreement with this option as a way forward.

The Group resolved:-

to advise the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee of the eight nominations received for the position, and in light of this and the valuable contribution of individuals with disabilities to the Group, to recommend that the Committee amend the membership to allow for up to 8 individuals with disabilities on the Group.