

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

30 AUGUST 2023

CITIZEN ASSEMBLIES - CUS/23/252

8. The Committee had before it a report by the Locality Inclusion Manager regarding detailed plans and costs for a Citizens' Assembly - while noting that budget approval would require to be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) approve the approach to deliver an assembly on poverty and gender inequality in Aberdeen; and
- (b) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to give authority to conduct a procurement exercise, where the estimated Contract Value was below £50,000 (supplies/services).

The Convener moved, seconded by the Vice Convener:-
that the Committee approve the recommendations.

Councillor Kuznir, seconded by Councillor Brooks, moved an amendment:-
that the Committee:

- (1) note progress on plans to facilitate Citizens' Assemblies on Poverty and Inequality;
- (2) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention & Community Empowerment in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, and Chief Officer - Customer Experience, to cease further work on Citizens' Assemblies in light of the complexity, cost and risks regarding the effectiveness of Citizens' Assemblies; and
- (3) requests that the Finance and Resources Committee reallocate any funds previously committed to Citizens' Assemblies to increasing available crisis grants.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (7) – the Convener, Vice Convener and Councillors Clark, Davidson, Greig, Hutchison, and Mennie; for the amendment (6) – Councillors Blake, Bonsell, Brooks, Kuznir, Lawrence and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-

to adopt the motion.

In terms of Standing Order 34.1, Councillor Kuznir indicated that he wished to refer this matter to Council for a final decision and he was supported by Councillors Blake, Bonsell, Brooks, Lawrence and Watson.