

AGENDA ITEM 6

NOTES of the Meeting of the COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock at 6.00pm on Monday 29th July, 2024.

Present: Councillor Mrs A Johnson

In attendance: Town Clerk, General Manager

1. CHAIRMAN

Councillor Mrs A Johnson assumed the Chair

2 COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT – PRELIMINARY & NEXT STEPS

The Meeting reviewed the background to consideration of the matter, the associated Report to the Budget & Policy Committee, and the allocated terms of reference as determined by Council. Namely, to undertake a community mapping exercise, including of those interests and individuals not represented by/through organised groups to:

- i. Identify gaps in communication/engagement by the Council;
- ii. Review how Councillors (*and the Council*) can better Communicate/Engage with the Community.

Reference was further made to the content of Minute Number 380 and the accompanying deliberations which set out in some detail associated discussions.

In the ensuing discussion reference was made, in particular, to:-

- The West Devon Community and Voluntary Service, and the potential it offered to be a convenor of and conduit to/with community and voluntary sector groups;
- Acknowledgement that within both groups and individuals in the community there could be cohorts of 'don't want to know' alongside 'don't know';
- The potential that an informal session be held with all Councillors to ascertain whom and which groups they engaged with in the community, in what capacity and how;
- A gap in related current reporting arrangements. Namely that those Members appointed to serve on/represent the Council on outside bodies did not currently make an annual (or if/as appropriate more regular) written report by way of feeding back issues and information associated with the appointments;
- That it could assist for a list of organisations to be compiled indicating those with which the Council worked on a regular basis, and those which were more ad hoc (to enable gaps to be identified), alongside the potential that a systems map indicating the types of connections into the community could be of assistance.

In the circumstances it was the consensus of the Meeting that the foregoing actions be commended to the Budget and Policy Committee and Council for progression.

The Meeting closed at 6.53pm.