

APPENDIX 1

Member Comments on Area Forum Review Report

Members received the Area Forum Review Report by email for their consideration in order to forward their comments to the Governance Review Group.

Eric Jukes:

Thanks for the Report. My only comment which I would welcome being considered relates (I think) to 4.4 on the format of the meetings. And, quite, frankly, it applies to many other - non-forum meetings. We are now in a different age and the format of all types of council meetings needs to reflect that. The public are bombarded with imagery on television and the internet - and the younger generation have come into a world full of such imagery and know of nothing else - unless they step into Enfield Council Meetings which have a format unchanged for a hundred years! Meetings need to have more than one publicly viewable screen - one will show the agenda and the point in the agenda that the meeting has reached. Another screen should show the location which is being discussed. This can be a simple streetmap.co.uk map and maybe a google earth image of the street or location. An officer should be present specifically to handle the audio/visual side and should be able to bring at least a map on the screen when a particular road is discussed - even if it is a spontaneous un-notified question from the floor. Obviously the officer needs to be specially competent in handling fast searches etc - some can't even get their powerpoint running without a wait!

And whatever happened to the council webcasts of meetings? I rather think they disappeared without trace during our administration!

But it is only by getting a much more slick (I hate the word!) and punchy and well illustrated presentation that the meetings can hope to engage with the younger generation.

Thanks.

Mike Rye:

My view is any restriction in meetings would lessen engagement, undermine democracy and weaken members representational role.

We should try and build on what we have, invite youth groups other hard to reach groups to particular meetings, perhaps use the ability to set agenda items to achieve this.

In present climate to increase costs would not be popular or sustainable.

I trust this is helpful

Ingrid Cranfield :

As to the seating arrangement, another possibility would be the horseshoe style, which allows everyone to see everyone else and, though it may put councillors and officers at the 'head', is more inclusive. This would only work, however, if space permits and there aren't more than, say, 30 people present altogether. If we are able to be flexible, could this be an option?

Governance Review Group Meeting 15th February 2011:

Comments on the report will be noted in the minutes of the Governance Review Group meeting on the 15th February. These will be circulated as soon as they become available. NB Edward Smith was at the PRG meeting and made comments.