

BIG SOCIETY PANEL – ACTION PLAN FOR ENCOURAGING DEMOCRACY SUB COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

The Sub Committee was established on the recommendation of the Big Society Panel 17th September 2013.

Purpose:

- i) To deliver the action plan for encouraging democracy on town and parish councils, in conjunction with the Head of Legal and Head of Policy and Performance.
- ii) To consider the issues of funding parish council elections and encouraging new candidates to put themselves forward for election.

Membership: Cllrs: Burbage, Bateson and Bathurst

Frequency of Meetings: The Sub Committee will meet as and when required.

Meetings: The Sub Committee Meetings shall be open to the public, subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and representatives from parish councils will be invited to attend as appropriate.

Scope:

- i) The Sub Committee has delegated authority from the Big Society Panel to implement the Action Plan for Encouraging Democracy on town and parish councils that was presented to the Big Society Panel on 17th September.
- ii) The Sub Committee will consider the extent to which the Council can or should assist town and parish councils with meeting the cost of elections and will make recommendation to Cabinet or the Big Society Panel as appropriate.
- iii) The Sub Committee will consider how new candidates can be encouraged to come forward for election, over and above actions identified in the action plan and make further recommendations to the Big Society Panel as appropriate.
- iv) The Sub Committee will consider publicity options in relation to publicising vacancies on parish councils.
- v) It will also look at electoral law powers the Borough may choose to exercise should parish councils persist in holding vacancies that are not co-opted and/or repeated under-nomination experienced at past all-out elections.

Consultation: The Sub Committee will consult and involve representatives from town and parish councils as appropriate.