

# Minutes of the Select Committee for Electoral Participation

13<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00p.m.  
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

**Present:** Councillor Melia (Chair);  
Councillors Hughes and Webb.

**Apologies:** Councillors Allcock, L Horton and  
Rt. Hon. John Spellar.

## 1/18 **Introduction**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Select Committee for Electoral Participation and asked that an agreement be reached in respect of key objectives and outcomes sought from the Committee.

## 2/18 **Terms of Reference of the Select Committee**

The terms of reference of the Select Committee were received.

## 3/18 **Neighbourhood Engagement with residents in respect of Registration**

The Committee received a presentation regarding Neighbourhoods engagement with tenants in respect of Registration.

New tenants were supported with the process of completing on line registration form by a neighbourhood officer and the officer also explained the implications of not completing the registration. Tenants were automatically removed from the register when they vacated a property.

**Resolved** that Neighbourhoods supply a list of new tenants to elections in order to check that they have registered.

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### 4/18 Electoral Participation:-

Members considered key objectives and outcomes sought from the Committee.

Members were informed that it was not compulsory to be on the register.

Sandwell had developed a unique and innovative programme and activities to engage with local communities especially those that were furthest away from being engaged from the democratic engagement process.

A Youth Democracy Programme would offer young people opportunity to participate and learn about how democracy affects them. All schools and young people organisations could be targeted.

Members felt that a special effort should be made to engage with the following groups.

- young people leaving care;
- adults with learning disabilities;
- people coming to the council for services;
- armed forces;
- those applying and gaining citizen ship;
- those in private sector housing;

#### **Resolved**

1. that a quarterly report be submitted of the numbers registered to restore confidence in system;
2. capture the reason for not registering and feedback to Committee.

Members stated that there had been a decrease of those registered which had been noted at the last election. Individuals had turned up to vote and were told that they had not been register. Members were informed that this would be addressed during the canvass.

#### **Resolved**

1. that an analysis of fall off for each ward to include ethnicity breakdown be brought to a future meeting;
2. that the whole engagement strategy would be considered to ensure more comprehensive engagement;

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3. consider the possibility of a canvass video in different languages;
4. that a schedule of activity for each town be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.
5. the Chair would engage with ward members prior to group meeting to discuss Electoral Participation;
6. that an Electoral ambassador for each town be established to engage with communities in respect to registration;
7. that developers building in the area be approached to consider putting a leaflet in respect of registration in their packs.
8. Youth engagement be undertaken via the young people's champion Councillor Millard;
9. that a full list of champions and ambassadors be assembled;
10. all activities to be launched in September 2018.

(The meeting ended at 4.15 p.m.)

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