



NOTES FROM THE SENSORY IMPAIRMENT WORKING PARTY HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2018 IN MEETING ROOM ONE AT THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 LIND STREET, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT, PO33 2NQ, COMMENCING AT 2PM

Present: Councillor S Lyons, Councillor K Lucioni, Councillor I Stephens and Councillor T Wakeley

In Attendance: Lisa Dyer (Staff and Notes), Grace Morris (Staff and Notes).

1/18 APOLOGIES

None received.

2/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None given.

3/18 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that the election of Chairman would be deferred to the next meeting.

4/18 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference below were noted.

Notice of Motion to: Meeting of the Full Town Council – 5 November 2018

Proposer: Councillor Karen Lucioni

Proposal: That the Town Council lead as an example of good practice in improving access for the sensory impaired at Full Council meetings

Proposal By Way of Notice of Motion

- That Ryde Town Council establish a working party to seek realistic, affordable and achievable solutions for the sensory impaired to access Full Council meetings
- That any recommendations from this working party come back to a future meeting for consideration.

It is noted that at this point the Town Council will also need to:

- 1) consider any proposal going forward as a result of above as part of the budget setting process
- 2) consider the Town Councils Contract Standing Orders in relation to procurement in any proposal going forward.

5/18 BRIEFING PAPER

The content of the briefing paper was noted.

Cllrs Wakely and Lyons welcomed the fact that they now had a wider remit and would look at improving services for all those with sensory impairments.

It was agreed to look at options for improving sound quality at meetings as sound was often poor and those that were not hard of hearing often struggled to hear what was being said. Staff were asked to look at the options for a portable PA system that was compatible with hearing loops.

Chris Turvey provided an update on research that had been conducted into making the Full Council venue more inclusive, which included a PA system and potentially having speech to text displayed on a projector.

It was agreed that a British Sign Language interpreter may be difficult to hire due to the cost implications, availability and that BSL is not used by all profoundly deaf people. There is also no guarantee of the BSL interpreter representing what was said accurately and impartially.

Councillor Wakeley felt that exploring new speech to text technologies maybe more beneficial and cost effective.

Councillor Lyons suggested that we could research the resources that schools have in place for deaf children. It was also brought to light that her son previously worked for the National Institute for the Deaf, therefore Councillor Lyons will going to contact her son to see who the best person would be for Ryde Town Council to consult with for advice.

Councillor Stephens entered.

Councillor Wakeley requested that we ask our IT provider, PC Consultants, to see what technology they would suggest.

Councillor Stephens suggested that we make an official approach to the RNID and RNIB to find out what they suggest for best practice, as well as costs and availability of resources.

Councillor Lucioni entered.

Lisa Dyer suggested that we gained an estimated figure to propose for the upcoming budget allocations before January which may enable us to gain resources.

RESOLVED – It was resolved that research will be conducted on the following:

- **Westridge Centre's sound system**
- **Cost of a PA system that is suitable and portable**
- **Apps for speech to text**

- Advice from PC Consultants
- Resources schools have in place for deaf children
- Advice from (RNID) now Action For Hearing Loss and the RNIB

6/18 NEXT STEPS

It was agreed that the committee will meet again on the 6th December at 2pm.