

APP Consultative Committee Working Group

Note of meeting on 18 July 2011 (DRAFT)

Present: Colin Richell, Jacob O’Callaghan, Nigel Willmott and Colin Marr (Chairman). Apologies from Gordon Hutchinson who had made written comments.

Purpose: To review where we are with regard to joint CC/SAC meeting arrangements in advance of a formal review meeting on 19 July and the Board meeting on 21 July.

Points from the discussion:

1. It was agreed that the joint meeting approach was effective and should be developed further. The second meeting (31 May) had worked quite well and provided important inputs to the Board meeting on 21 June.
2. We objected to the disparaging line that had been taken by the IGM in his report to the Board, which referred to abolition of the CC and the withdrawal of councillor-trustees from any evolved SAC.
3. We objected to the apparent downgrading in the status of the CC in the joint meeting being referred to as ‘informal’, its minutes being downplayed as ‘notes’ and the oversight of not holding an annual meeting.
4. Our original concept of a Joint SAC/ CC (Model 1), which was agreed by the SAC seems to have been lost sight of by the IGM and the secretariat.
5. The Charity Commission’s responses are important. Their agreement that the scope of a ‘merged’ SAC could be widened is valuable. Their view that the membership/composition of a ‘merged’ SAC could not be allowed without new legislation is unhelpful, but probably realistic.
6. In the spirit of building on what has already been achieved, there are further improvements to the joint meeting arrangements that could be made. See below:
 - Retain the joint meeting approach, but structure the meeting as two separate but consecutive formal meetings in sequence, first the CC and then the SAC.
 - The agenda could be common for both parts.
 - Councillor trustee members of the CC should attend and take part in the first meeting just as they would for the CC now. SAC members could be involved in the first meeting as participating but non-voting observers.
 - For the second part, which would be ring-fenced as formal SAC, members of the CC could attend as non participating observers.
 - Chairman of the SAC would be as of now, and chairman of the CC would be decided by the membership.

The arrangement described above would retain the advantage of a more broad-based and better informed discussion. It would retain the formal authority of both CC and SAC, but would save on admin and secretariat.

7. Formalisation of the above would require a change to the constitution of the CC to allow for the new chairman arrangement, but this is within the remit of

the Council and should be achievable simply by changes to the CC constitution.

8. A meeting of the full CC needs to be arranged to review the joint meeting arrangements. This 'annual meeting' should also decide on the CC's representatives (three) on the Board, also with the possibility that these reps may have named deputies.
9. We would like to see a much more effective way for the views of the CC (and the SAC) to be presented and responded to by the Board. For the Board simply to note our views is not good enough! Our recommendations should be introduced to the Board either by one of the reps (or the chair of the evolved CC) and then formally responded to and minuted.
10. A further consideration is the extent to which we should take up the IGM's suggestion that we liaise directly with the Charity Commission.

Colin Marr

19 July 2011