

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AT MEETINGS
WORKING GROUP**

HELD: 22 MARCH 2016
Start: 5.00pm
Finish: 6.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Pendleton (Chairman)
Oliver

Officers: Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)
Elections and Administration Services Manager (Mr T Lynan)
Assistant Member Services Manager (Mrs J Denning)

17. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19. NOTES

The notes of the meeting held on 21 December 2015 were considered.

RESOLVED That the notes of the meeting held on 21 December 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

20. VISIT TO KNOWSLEY MBC

The notes of the visit to Knowsley MBC on 19 February 2016 were circulated.

RESOLVED That the notes of the visit to Knowsley MBC be noted.

21. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WEST LANCASHIRE - UPDATE

The Working Group considered the report of the Borough Solicitor, which provided an update on the review and considered further progress of the preparation of a report to Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Council.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

1. Changing the Electoral Cycle to whole council elections in relation to:
 - Political stability
 - Voter confusion
 - Lack of significant savings
 - Impact on other elections held eg. County Council, PCC, etc. and benefits of sharing costs
 - Length of process comparative to outcomes and cost
2. Reducing the number of Councillors
 - Ratio of electors to elected Member and the national average
 - Increased ward related work for individual Councillors
 - Reduced accessibility for electors

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- AGREED
- A. That the report and appendices be noted.
 - B. That the status quo be maintained for the reasons discussed ie. risk of voter confusion in relation to whole council elections, lack of significant savings and the ratio of electors to elected Members compared to the national average.
 - C. That the draft report for Corporate and Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Council be presented to the next meeting of the Working Group.

22. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED That the next meeting be held at 5.30pm on Tuesday, 5 July 2016.