

Unlock Democracy Council Strategy Meeting
5th Floor 9 King Street London EC2V 8EA
23 January 2016 12-3pm
MINUTES

Present: Vicky Seddon, Stuart Weir, Phil Starr, Danny Zinkus Sutton, Jack Maizels, Andrew Blick, Stephen Carter, James Grindrod, Peter Hirst, Mary Southcott

In attendance: Alex Runswick, Emily Randall, Pete Mills

Apologies: Finola Kelly; Avtar Singh

1.Chair's welcome

Chair explained that because of some issues in his personal circumstances, Alan Debenham was no longer able to serve on Council and on the Rodell Board. It was agreed that the Chair should write to Alan to thank him for his long and faithful service to Unlock Democracy

2. How Unlock Democracy campaigns

Emily gave a presentation on digital campaigning and outlines how local groups and members of Council could use this to campaign locally. Council thanked her for her presentation.

3. Discussion paper

Alex presented the strategy paper produced by the working group and thanked them all for their hard work and commitment. She briefed Council on the process and the key issues that had arisen from the working group discussions. Alex emphasised that while the process had been very positive it had taken almost a year and it was important that the staff team could focus on campaigning.

4. Discussion of the paper and amendments

There was wide ranging discussion of the strategy paper and the working group process. This was followed by discussion of the motions and amendments.

Danny Zinkus Sutton motion, seconded by Stephen Carter

Danny Zinkus Sutton proposed a motion to welcome the working group strategy paper and set up review process for delivery of strategy plan.

“Council warmly welcomes the revised strategy document.

Council approves the strategy set out in the circulated discussion paper, and authorises our staff to take it forward , including campaign planning. The Director of Unlock Democracy will be responsible for producing consequential detailed plans for each of the individual strands as set out in section 6 of the main campaign strategy paper.

We are particularly concerned to ensure our project and institutional development work is integrated into an strategy that addresses the broader aspects of reform and

the overall constitutional crisis. We particularly welcome the moves towards this under the umbrella of "We the People."

Further planning work will be needed to add detail to the broad plan outlined in the strategy. We ask that this include:

1) exploratory work on creating a broad coalition of reform groups or an umbrella group working for constitutional change, in order to create broader pressure for reform.

2) exploration of options for work on specific aspects of the 'constitutional crisis', including the role of local government as separate funded projects

3) an explicit emphasis in our messaging that there exists constitutional crisis which needs urgent action to address

4) a preference for mass activism

Council will develop a performance reporting document in consultation with UD staff, for use at Council meetings.

Council will meet to review delivery of the strategic plan in 12 months. At this meeting we will review progress on actions in the planning document, including Rodell development plans, the more detailed organisational sub-plans, Follow the Money, and the detailed campaign plan for We The People.

The content of the strategic plan be reviewed in November 2017. This process will be a revision rather than a reformulation – ie we do not expect it to require the extent of preparatory work than has gone in to the current formulation of the strategic plan."

Stuart Weir proposed an amendment seconded by Phil Starr

To insert "Accordingly, UD will set up a working mechanism to consider and recommend urgent proposals to fill out our campaigning strategy, to involve at least the Director and elected officers, which will report to Council."

The amendment was put to the votes, agreed and added to point 2 of motion

Mary Southcott proposed an amendment, seconded by Stuart Weir

To insert "including a democratic deficit, the abuse of executive powers, highly centralised government and a voting system unfit for purpose in the 21st century"
The amendment was put to a vote but not agreed.

Peter Hirst moved an amendment, seconded by Stuart Weir

To insert "5) a values-led approach that allows other groups to support our campaigns"

The amendment was put to a vote but not agreed.

5. Decision and next steps

The amended motion was then put to the vote and agreed.

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Alex outlined how staff would be taking this strategy forward, including running campaign planning days and bringing a membership strategy to the next Council meeting.

Phil Starr discussed establishing an informal group to discuss a possible project on local government as per the motion and invited members of Council who wished to join to put their names forward.

6. Reminder of next Council meeting

The date of the next meeting is **Saturday 20 February**. Vicky thanked everybody for their contributions