

Minutes of the ADSO Board Meeting

Friday 12 July 2019 at 11 am

London Councils, 59 ½ Southwark Street, SE1

In attendance

Name	Position	Present(P) Apologies(A)
John Austin (JA)	Chair	P
Dave Burn (DB)	Vice-Chair	P
John Lynch (JL)	Director for Finance	P
Susan Biddle (SB)	Director for Training	P (by telephone for minute 5)
Peter Savage (PS)	Company Secretary	P
Wayne Chandai (WC)	Director for Communication	A
Rebecca Owen (RO)	East Midlands representative	A
Martin Elliott (MT)	East Midlands representative	A
Andy Spragg (AS)	London representative	P
James McLaughlin (JM)	North-East and Yorkshire and Humberside representative	A
Paul Wickenden (PW)	South East representative	P
Emma Tombs (ET)	East of England representative	P
Debbie Janes (DJ)	East of England representative	P
Sarah Selway (SS)	South West representative	A
Libby Johnstone (LJ)	South West representative	A
Jess Bayley (JB)	West Midlands representative	P
Alex Murray (AM)	North West representative	P
Trudy Bedford (TB)	North West representative	P
Vacancy	Wales region	A
Also present: Mike Bridges, Cabinet Office		

Item No.	Subject	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies: The Chair welcomed a number of new faces and was especially pleased to see shared responsibilities amongst regional representatives.</p>	

2.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2019. The Minutes were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
DECISION ITEMS		
3.	<p>Cabinet Office approach to democracy The Board received a presentation from Mike Bridges from the Cabinet Office which was primarily seeking support for ways to further increase electoral registration especially for hard to reach groups. The Board welcomed the connection and agreed to promote the programme leading up to National Democracy Week through weekly newsletters and other channels. The Board noted that DCMS were undertaking parallel programmes which would be of interest to ADSO. The Vice-Chair undertook to send details of the LGA's "to be a councillor" campaign to Mike Bridges. Mike Bridges was also directed to the <i>Not Westminster</i> group for ideas about different approaches to the democratic deficit. Mike Bridges to be notified of regional meetings being held in October in case he was available to attend (mike.bridges@cabinetoffice.gov.uk).</p> <p>Access to some Policy Lab research on reducing barriers to registration for homeless and frequent movers was possible but given that it contained sensitive data would need to be on a case by case request via Mike Bridges.</p>	<p>DB</p> <p>Regional reps</p> <p>all</p>
4.	<p>Away day – report from Deborah Evans</p> <p>The report was taken as read. Recommendations accepted and to be pursued as follows:</p> <p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>Vision provisionally agreed as follows:</p> <p><i>To be a nationally recognised professional association, regarded as such by central government, our members and our partners.</i></p> <p><i>Working with our members and/or partners to support transparent and open democracy and governance for the benefit of our citizens</i></p> <p>AM and ET to look at missions and objectives and report back to next meeting.</p> <p>Strapline agreed as <i>Democracy matters</i></p> <p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>DB and AS to review position and report back to next meeting</p> <p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>JA, JL and PS to complete audit and submit options for moving forward to next meeting</p>	<p>AM ET</p> <p>DB AS</p> <p>JA JL PS</p> <p>JA PS</p> <p>DJ TB PW JA</p>

	<p>Noted that there were no reports from Vice Chair and Director of Communications on this occasion.</p> <p>Regional reports The following were noted as circulated: North West region South West region East of England region JB provided an oral report on West Midlands including suggesting that ADSO provide training streams for experienced DSOs and also on school appeals. PW advised that there would be Kent meeting in the week following this Board meeting. Consideration was being given to splitting the region into two (Buckinghamshire/Hampshire/Surrey and Kent/Sussex recognising the travel constraints in the region. AS advised that the London seminar held on 5 July 2019 had covered the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges facing chief executives • Challenges facing front line DSOs • Workshops on governance reviews and personal resilience • Being a councillor <p>Noted various clashes, including with relevant non ADSO groups. Better use to be made of on line calendar – permissions needed for regional representatives</p>	Regional reps WC
9.	<u>Working with others</u> Nothing to report	
10.	<u>Consultations:</u> Nothing to report	
11.	<u>Any other business:</u> Conference – agreed that the programme was looking strong.	
12.	<u>Dates of future meetings:</u> 20 September 2019 6 December 2019 All meetings to be held at London Councils.	All PS