

Minutes of the Cross-Party Group on Digital Participation

@ the Scottish Parliament, Committee Room , 1 October 2019

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. AGM Business
3. Roundtable updates from CPG members
4. Closing remarks from Willie Coffey MSP
5. AOB

Attendees:

- Willie Coffey MSP, Convener, CPG on Digital Participation
- Liam McArthur MSP, Deputy-Convener, CPG Digital Participation
- Finlay Carson MSP, CPG Digital Participation MSP member
- Jonathan Ruff – Ofcom
- Lauren Galloway – Ofcom
- Stuart Young – Etime
- Graeme Hamilton - Blackwood Group
- Maggie Ellis – European Knowledge Tree Group
- Rab Campbell – Chairman, Wallet Services
- David Jeffrey - Tap Into IT
- Barbara Adams – Consultant Servelec
- Amanda Britain – Communications Consumer Panel
- Richard Johnson – Director, OLM Systems
- John Trower, Chairman, Optimity
- Nancy Fancott - CCPS-Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland
- George Adam – Individual
- Aaron Slater – SCVO
- David Walls – Lothian Broadband Networks Ltd
- Catherine Stihler– Open Knowledge Foundation

(1) Welcome and Introductions:

- CPG Convener Willie Coffey MSP (WC) welcomed attendees and acknowledged apologies from absent CPG members.
- WC briefly spoke about the success of the last CPG meeting in May, in which Digital Minister Kate Forbes MSP and Linnar Viik of the Estonian Smart Government programme shared insights with CPG members.
- WC noted the range of topics and questions discussed, which included sensitive issues such as privacy, use of electronic ID cards and whether an ‘opt-in’ approach for online services was working effectively.
- WC outlined the agenda for the rest of the meeting.

(2) AGM Business:

- WC acknowledged the meeting was quorate and could therefore proceed to the AGM business and election of office bearers.
- Following a short discussion, CPG members approved the current office bearers to continue in their roles; Willie Coffey MSP to remain as Convener, Liam McArthur MSP to remain as Deputy-Convener and Jonathan Ruff (Ofcom) to continue as secretary for the time being.
- **ACTION** JR asked CPG members to consider taking over Secretary duties for upcoming sessions; noting constraints on his time during this year. CPG members were asked to contact him directly should they have an interest in this.

(3) Roundtable updates from CPG members:

- Attendees provided an overview of the latest developments in their sectors.
- There was a short discussion about data ethics and data security; ME raised concerns that people may not fully understand what data (and implications) is being shared with third parties, while FC questioned whether it was necessary for governments to retain such large amounts of data from its citizens.
- BA then raised the complex and sensitive issues around ownership of health data (and the implications for the NHS given its value to third party organisations). CPG members generally agreed that people more training/skills to help them navigate data ownership and consent issues.
- **ACTION** – CS said she would share recent work/reports/publications from the Open Knowledge Foundation to help inform future CPG debates on these issues.
- GH noted the importance of cross-sector collaboration and the need to share best practice amongst local authorities.
- AB raised a recent case of a power/connectivity outage on the Isle of Colonsay, which simply reinforced the importance of having resilient networks to tackle isolation on island communities.
- **ACTION** – BA advised that Servelec is currently running a program in partnership with University to enable young people to receive accredited diploma. We agreed to discuss this as future CPG topic.
- JR provided CPG members with a short summary of topics discussed at previous CPG meetings; spanning issues such as ‘fake news’, digital participation in Scotland, the fourth industrial revolution, emerging IoT technologies and the Estonian Government e-government programme.
- JR also updated members on the latest Ofcom publications; including our consultation on new rules to ensure that communications providers treat vulnerable people fairly and give them the help, support and services they need.

(4) Closing remarks:

- WC thanked everyone for their time and reminded members of the date for the next CPG meeting (28 January 2020).
- JR advised members that he would be sharing a revamped newsletter/summary for members to review and comment on.