Review of public petitions process and guidance agreed – Establishment of short-term working group approved.

2 With reference to the minutes of the Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee of 30th May 2019 (Print 2, page 99) noting a report detailing the findings and proposals from a Public Petitions Review Working Group, there was submitted a report by the Director of Legal and Administration regarding a proposal for a further review of the public petitions process and guidance, advising

(1) that the Council's public petitions process was introduced in 2012 and since then there had been 3 reviews undertaken in order to continue to improve the process and to ensure that the guidance assisted members of the public in submitting petitions, with the findings and outcomes of the last review reported on 30th May 2019, as detailed above; and

(2) of the broad approach and timescale for taking forward the proposal to review the current process and guidance, including the proposed establishment of a working group, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the committee

(a) agreed the proposals to review the Council's public petitions process and guidance, as detailed in the report;

(b) approved the establishment of a short-term working group to carry out the review and to contribute views as to how the process might be improved, with membership to include up to 4 elected members from this committee to be nominated by the Business Bureau, representation from Community Councils and the Centre for Civic Innovation and appropriate Council officers who supported the petitions process; and

(c) noted that a report detailing the outcomes and recommendations arising from the review would be submitted to this committee in Autumn 2023.