



NOTES FROM THE SENSORY IMPAIRMENT WORKING PARTY HELD ON THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018 IN MEETING ROOM ONE AT THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 LIND STREET, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT, PO33 2NQ, COMMENCING AT 2PM

Present: Councillor S Lyons, Councillor K Lucioni and Councillor T Wakeley.

In Attendance: Lisa Dyer (Staff and Notes), Grace Morris (Staff and Notes).

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**7/18 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Karen Lucioni was elected as Chairman.

**8/18 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Ian Stephens gave apologies.

**9/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**10/18 NOTES**

To agree the notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018.  
**RESOLVED – The notes were agreed as true and correct.**

**11/18 TO NOTE THE NEW REGULATIONS REGARDING ACCESIBILITY OF WEBSITES**

Councillors noted the NALC advice LO9- 18 for Public Sector Bodies regarding websites and mobile applications.

The new regulations regarding accessibility of websites were received. Lisa Dyer reported to the working group that PC Consultants were forming a report which would be received by January detailing Ryde Town Council's compliance with the new regulations and what amendments we will be required to make to ensure the website is compliant. Councillor Wakeley requested that we have a section on the website highlighting the accessibility features that Ryde Town Council offers.

## 12/18 PROGRESS ON RESEARCH

To receive updates on the below items:

- **Westridge Centre's sound system**

Lisa Dyer informed the committee that staff had contacted the Westridge Centre who informed us that the system had been borrowed from Isle of Wight Council County Hall Facilities Team which is a Teleivc Conference Unit. They advised that this cost just over £10,000 a few years ago plus the cost of an amplifier.

- **Cost of a PA system that is suitable and portable**

Lisa Dyer updated the committee on estimated costs received for a Teleivc Conference Unit, including the necessary accessories such as battery packs, which would total to roughly £5,200. However, the quote is for the basic resources. The working party unanimously agreed that we would require double the amount of quoted units to ensure maximum potential use of the units for inclusion of the sensory impaired. Councillor Wakeley highlighted that we will need a bespoke pacakage that is suitable for our needs, such as being mobile and connecting to an amplifier or projector. He suggested that we contacted NALC or LGA to see what other Councils have in place, or if there is a suggested PA system provider we could gain a quotation from.

- **Apps for speech to text**

The staff explained that they had conducted research online to see what apps official organisations that support the sensory impaired suggested. hearinglink.org recommended an app called 'Ava' which is a 'chat room' style speech to text app. This would require Members to have a device to download the app on and the Council to provide a device for the members of public to use, and would provide an on-screen transcript distinguishing the name of each Councillor who is speaking. The working party postiviely responded, and they have asked the staff to look into the possibilities of having this app projected onto a screen at meetings to enable all members of the public to be able to view, rather than just those who require it. Councillor Lucioni and Councillor Lyons are going to have a look at the app themselves and provide feedback at the next meeting.

- **Advice from PC Consultants**

Grace Morris told the committee that she had been in contact with PC Consultants who were unfortunately unable to provide further information on this as they do not specialise in sensory impairment however they suggested that a speech to text app would be useful, and a device such as an iPad may be a good idea as it would enable us to enlarge documents at meetings for those who may not be able to read the paper versions.

- **Resources schools have in place for deaf children**

Information that was received from Ryde Academy with regards to their resources for students with sensory impairments was read to the committee. It was agreed that this information was not as relevant to meetings as required, therefore Councillor Lucioni suggested that staff contacted Universities asking for what resources they have in place for students in classes and lectures.

- **Advice from (RNID) now Action For Hearing Loss, Isle Access and the RNIB**

Lisa Dyer informed the committee that although we had written to the main offices of Action For Hearing Loss, Isle Access and the RNIB, we were still awaiting responses, although she did speak with Island Support regarding a BSL interpreter. Following the previous meeting, Councillor Lyons said that she had contacted her RNID contact directly but they advised that progression of the organisation meant that, as advised, it would be more beneficial to contact our local representative; the working party requested that we contact the Isle of Wight service of Action For Hearing Loss.

### **13/18 NEXT STEPS**

To agree and confirm any next steps.

**RESOLVED – It was agreed that the following steps will be taken:**

- **Staff are to investigate bespoke PA system packages for RTC's needs**
- **If an app can be projected onto a screen**
- **If the venues for meeting have screens for projection**
- **To contact universities on what provisions they have in place**
- **To write to our local Action For Hearing Loss**
- **Councillor Lucioni and Councillor Lyons will investigate the AVA app and report back to the committee**

### **14/18 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

To agree the date of the next meeting.

**It was agreed that the date of the next meeting is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 2pm.**