

Minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Commission held on 6 September 2004 in London

Present: Sam Younger (SY) (Chair)
Pamela Gordon (PG)
Glyn Mathias (GM)
Sir Neil McIntosh (NM)
Karamjit Singh (KS)

In attendance: Roger Creedon (RC)
Jacqui Dixon (JD)
Roger Gough (RG)
Angela Salt (AS)
Nicole Smith (NS)
Chris Welford (CW)
Rael Zackon (RZ)
Jennifer Gaughan (JG)

1. Mission, vision, values and aims

1.1 RC introduced this item, and explained that the Corporate Plan required a radical overhaul. SMT had put forward a number of options, which were discussed.

1.2 Mission: what we are here for

The Commissioners preferred the format of the existing mission statement, and agreed that the mission should be to foster public confidence and participation in the democratic process.

1.3 Vision: what we want

Staff were looking for a statement which was aspirational and outward looking. Whilst recognising that the Commission could only achieve a vision in the areas which it controlled or affected, it was accepted that the vision should be about democracy.

The Commissioners agreed that the vision should be a democracy in which every citizen can participate with confidence.

1.4 Values: how we will do it

The Commissioners wished independence to be the first of the Commission's values, together with collaboration and innovation to emphasise the way in which the Commission achieved many of its objectives.

The values were agreed to be:

Independence
Collaboration with others
Excellence
Openness and honesty
Equality and diversity, and respect for staff
Pride, dynamism and passion

1.5 Aims: what we do

It was agreed that the aims must be cross-cutting, easy to explain externally and a benchmark for activities coming forward in the Corporate Plan.

The aims were agreed to be:

Aim 1: Promote integrity in the democratic process – including: financial probity; inspection; compliance; investigation; fraud; internal processes; value for money; audit.

Aim 2: Promote involvement in the democratic process – including: campaigns; outreach; research; public information; pilots; NIF; broadcasting.

Aim 3: Improve the effectiveness of the electoral process – including: boundary reviews; policy reviews; developing good practice and training; review new methods of voting.

1.6 RC stated that a draft of the mission, vision, values and aims would be prepared for the Staff Conference on 22 October, to elicit reaction. The statement would be signed off after that event. The draft Corporate Plan and budget would be discussed at the November Business Planning meeting. The Speaker's Committee should meet in November or December, with approval to the Corporate Plan in January 2005.

1.7 **The Commissioners agreed the draft mission, vision, values and aims as set out above, for discussion at the Staff Conference in October.**