

A17 Creating additional opportunities for members to engage with the Councillor group

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Cllr group

Motion text

1 Agrees that the Branch Committee and Councillor group will consider how, between
2 them, they can facilitate additional opportunities for members to engage with
3 the work of the Councillor group, and to discuss how the Councillor group can be
4 more open and transparent with regard to their working, beyond current reporting
5 requirements. This might involve Councillors hosting regular sessions to discuss
6 policy / manifesto topics with interested members, or “open” sessions in the
7 City Chambers for people to visit Councillors and learn more about their work,
8 publicised by the Branch Committee.

Reason

One of the pillars of Green politics is “radical democracy” and this is reflected through our grassroots organising, and “bottom up” lines of accountability / responsibility which are in place between the branch and elected representatives.

Whilst there are some processes in place to make Councillors available and open to the branch – for example, regular reporting and attendance at branch events / committee meetings - there have been ongoing conversations this year between Councillors and the branch committee about how to further strengthen opportunities for members to engage with Councillor activity. Whilst the basics have been captured and reinforced by the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Councillor group and Branch Committee, there may still be more we can do to further democratize the activity of the Councillor group.

In line with the above, at the Edinburgh Greens Councillor group AGM on 19th June it was agreed that the Co-Conveners of the Councillor group would submit a motion on behalf of the whole Councillor group to make a commitment to the branch to explore further opportunities to be more open, engaged and involved with the membership. This motion does this.