

# Writing the Neighbourhood Forum constitution



# Purpose

## The purpose of the Forum is...

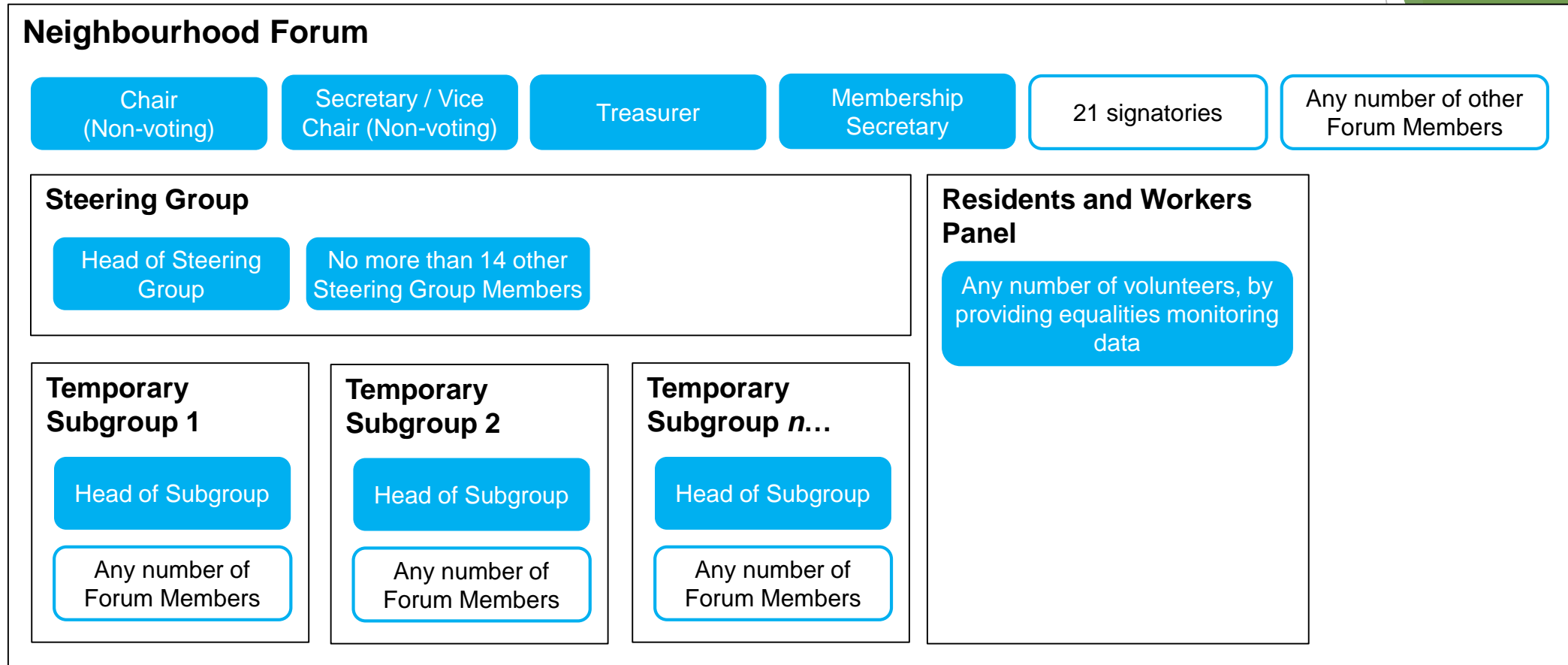
- To promote or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Finsbury Park and Stroud Green Neighbourhood Area, through the preparation and implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011;
- To ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community that it represents, to liaise with other community groups within the Neighbourhood Area, and to fairly express the diversity of opinions and outlooks of the people;
- To remain independent of any party political, religious, trade or campaign organisation;
- To promote and improve joint working between Hackney, Haringey and Islington Councils and residents and workers within the Neighbourhood Area;
- To direct development towards areas identified in the Neighbourhood Plan as being most appropriate for regeneration, and away from those most appropriate for conservation;
- To ensure that development contributes towards reducing economic inequality within the Neighbourhood Area;
- To ensure that development is appropriate to the character of its surrounding area, as defined in the Neighbourhood Plan;
- To promote the preservation and restoration of areas identified in the Neighbourhood Plan as justifying conservation, and;
- To work with Hackney, Haringey and Islington Councils and other organisations to explore delivery models that reward patient capital, increase human capital, increase community assets, and/or increase not for profit enterprise within the Neighbourhood Area

# Principles

## In making decisions, the Forum shall...

- Consider the role of the Neighbourhood Area within London as a whole;
- Meet the needs of those who have the poorest health and wellbeing outcomes within the Neighbourhood Area, as identified in the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Learn from the successes and failures of past policies, projects, and programmes locally and elsewhere, whilst considering any differences in circumstances;
- Understand how changes may affect people in different ways depending on their particular circumstances, and;
- Have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

# Bodies and roles



# Powers and decision making

Body	Powers
<b>Neighbourhood Forum</b>	<p>As per Localism Act 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising funds by donation, grants, or other means;</li> <li>- Opening a bank account in the name of the Forum to manage such funds;</li> <li>- Making payments for goods and services to be applied to the objects of the Forum, and for no other purpose;</li> <li>- Taking out any contracts that it may see fit.</li> </ul>
<b>Steering Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Propose amendments to this Constitution and its annex(es), to be approved or rejected by the Forum <u>by special resolution</u>;</li> <li>- Propose amendments to the Neighbourhood area, to be approved or rejected by the Forum <u>by special resolution</u>;</li> <li>- Propose the publication of an Emerging Draft Neighbourhood Plan, to be approved or rejected by the Forum <u>by special resolution</u>;</li> <li>- Propose the submission of a Consultation Version of the Neighbourhood Plan to the three councils, to be approved or rejected by the Forum <u>by special resolution</u>;</li> <li>- Work with the three Boroughs as they see fit, and;</li> <li>- Express views on planning applications, in compliance with the latest published Emerging Draft Neighbourhood Plan, and;</li> <li>- Propose that the Forum be dissolved before the duration, to be approved or rejected by the Forum <u>by special resolution</u> (other than to comply with the law).</li> </ul>
<b>Residents and Workers Panel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No formal powers, acting only as a consultee</li> </ul>
<b>Temporary Subgroup(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No formal powers, acting only as a consultee</li> </ul>

## Roles, structure and quorum

Structure	Formal roles	Decision-making
<p><b>Neighbourhood Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any number of Forum Members</li> </ul> <p>Four types of member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resident Forum Member</li> <li>- Worker Forum Member</li> <li>- Elected Official Forum Member</li> <li>- Affiliated Organisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Chair of the Forum</b> (Elected by the Neighbourhood Forum; non-voting)</li> <li>- <b>Secretary / Vice Chair</b> (Elected by the Neighbourhood Forum; non-voting)</li> <li>- <b>Treasurer</b> (Elected by the Neighbourhood Forum)</li> <li>- <b>Membership Secretary</b> (Elected by the Neighbourhood Forum)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Simple majority of at least 11 Forum Members, with at least three from each Borough</li> <li>- Where proposals have not originated from Steering Group, at least seven must be Steering Group Members</li> <li>- No more than three votes shall be counted from Worker Forum Members from the same business on any matter</li> <li>- <u>Special resolutions</u> - Communicated to Forum Members no less than 14 days prior to decision</li> </ul>
<p><b>Steering Group</b></p> <p>No more than 15 members, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Between one and four Resident or Worker Members from each Borough, and;</li> <li>- No more than one Elected Official Member from each Borough</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Head of the Steering Group</b> (Elected by the Neighbourhood Forum to Steering Group; appointed as Head by the Steering Group)</li> <li>- <b>14 other Steering Group Members</b> (Elected by the Neighbourhood Forum)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Simple majority of at least seven Steering Group Members, with at least two from each Borough</li> <li>- <u>Special resolutions</u> - Communicated to Steering Group Members no less than 14 days prior to decision</li> </ul>
<p><b>Residents and Workers Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any number of Forum Members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- n/a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- n/a</li> </ul>
<p><b>Temporary Subgroup(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any number of Forum Members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Head of the Subgroup</b> (Appointed by the Steering Group)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- n/a</li> </ul>