1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide an update on the Council’s plans for taking part in Local Democracy Week 2016.

2. **Background**

2.1 In 2014 the Council distributed a series of democracy-themed lesson plans to schools in Lincoln as part of Local Democracy Week. This course of action was chosen in preference to more time-intensive projects which would also be less easily offered to a wider number of students.

2.2 In 2015 the Council approached all of the secondary schools and sixth forms in Lincoln with a view to arranging events encouraging engagement between young people and councillors. Events were held in two local schools with councillors and sixth-formers taking part to discuss the role of the councillor and how young people can play a greater part in local democracy.

2.3 The Ethics & Engagement Committee has responsibility for encouraging democratic engagement and Local Democracy Week provides a useful opportunity to try to build awareness among young people of local democracy and how they can participate in civic life.

3. **October 2016 Plans**

3.1 Local Democracy Week will take place from 10-16 October 2016. A letter has been sent to the head teacher of each secondary school in Lincoln highlighting the Council’s interest in facilitating events during Local Democracy Week. At the time of writing the report, one response has been received from teachers at the Priory Academy LSST expressing interest in building on an event held in 2015.

3.2 As in previous years, the format of any events has been left open to any feedback from interested schools. It is hoped that this increases the likelihood of schools responding to this request by allowing flexibility to work around individual schools’ priorities although officers have also sought to provide suggestions for possible events. Members are also therefore invited to suggest any particular themes, topics, or events which could be used to promote local democracy.

3.3 Any further events are likely to be dependent on the level of interest from schools. As noted above, lesson plans have previously been circulated to schools to provide an alternative source of democratic education.
4. Organisational Impacts

4.1 Finance
There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4.2 Legal Implications
There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That members note the report and offer any suggestions regarding any events to be facilitated by the Council during Local Democracy Week.