

SUBJECT:	WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
REPORT BY:	DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
LEAD OFFICER:	CAROLYN WHEATER – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEGAL AND CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To put forward the 2013/14 Ethics and Engagement Committee work programme for consideration by members.

2. Work Programme Summary

- 2.1 As requested at the last meeting of the Committee, officers have compiled a provisional work programme for 2013/14. Working with the Chair of the Committee, a work programme has been developed and is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 In addition to ongoing work regarding member behaviour and development, the two principal strands of the work programme relate to improving democratic engagement, primarily through an examination of democratic engagement with young people and the diversity of electoral candidates.
- 2.3 Discussions regarding the development of a suitable format for planned member panel sessions within local schools are continuing with Lincoln Christ's Hospital School, and will be reported back to the Committee at its next meeting.
- 2.4 Members are also encouraged to put forward any proposals for relevant matters of concern or interest to them or the residents of their ward which the Ethics and Engagement Committee may be able to consider.

3. Significant Topics

- 3.1 A number of items within the work programme are relatively straightforward and self-contained; reports for these matters can be produced by officers for members' consideration without significant prior guidance. However, a number of items on the proposed work programme for 2013/14 deal specifically with topics falling within the widened remit of the Committee, following the changes to its terms of reference during 2012/13. As such, members are invited to comment on the items highlighted below and discuss the appropriate focus for the particular topic.
- 3.2 Increasing Democratic Engagement with Young People
The Committee has already begun to investigate some of the ways in which the Council can improve levels of democratic engagement with young people. This work is currently centred around trialling interactive panels between school pupils and councillors, details of which will be reported to the next meeting of the

Committee. However, this strand of work could potentially be broadened to encourage young people outside the school system to engage with local democracy.

3.3 In particular, the scope for increasing democratic engagement with young people crosses over with the two other primary strands for the Committee regarding electoral engagement and the diversity of electoral candidates. As such, members may wish to consider which of the following areas are to be prioritised and how a particular action plan can be developed:

- Improving democratic engagement with students attending local universities, with particular regard to voter registration.
- Reaching young people not in formal education who might otherwise be unlikely to take part in any democratic engagement work already being undertaken with local schools.

3.4 Encouraging Electoral Engagement

Voter turnout in Lincoln at the most recent local election to the Lincolnshire County Council was 26.35%, set against 26.81% for the 2012 elections to the City of Lincoln Council. The failure of a significant majority of Lincoln's voters to take part in these elections fits into a broader national picture, which has been construed by some as threatening the democratic legitimacy of the respective institutions.

3.5 Setting aside issues which the Council cannot directly influence, such as broader structural issues relating to local government and elections as a whole, members are recommended to consider the manner in which the Council can seek to understand why local electors choose not to take part in the local democratic process and whether any actions can be taken to improve voter turnout. This could include reference to the following areas:

- Inviting expert representation on voter turnout at a local and national level, to include analysis of the demographic profiles of those who do and do not vote.
- Investigating the appropriateness and cost of additional promotional work for registering to vote and taking part in elections.

3.6 Increasing the Diversity of Electoral Candidates

In combination with national rates of low voter turnout, Lincoln is not untypical in that the profile of its elected representatives varies significantly in some areas from the make-up of its electorate. In order to ensure the opportunity for both a plurality of views and the full enfranchisement of different groups within Lincoln, members may wish to consider the diversity of electoral candidates and whether any work should be undertaken to encourage certain groups to take a formal role in the Council.

3.7 A significant part of this work may entail identifying demographic groups which are currently underrepresented within the Council and questioning whether this is in any way due to barriers, perceived or otherwise, that the Council is able to remove. By way of reference, some key demographic data for Lincoln's population of those over the age of 18 years is produced below. While recognising that the election of candidates is clearly and ultimately the responsibility of the people, it is striking that in a number of key areas councillors do not appear to be

demographically representative of Lincoln's population as a whole.

Age

Age	Number	Proportion of all 18+ residents
18-29	23,369	30.9%
30s	11,887	15.7%
40s	12,016	15.9%
50s	10,161	13.4%
60s	8,665	11.4%
70s	5,471	7.2%
80s+	4,127	5.5%

Gender

Gender	Number	Proportion of all 18+ residents by gender
Male	36,652	48.4%
Female	39,044	51.6%

Ethnicity (including under-18s)

Ethnicity	Number	Proportion of all residents
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	83,653	89.4%
White: Irish	719	0.8%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	80	0.1%
White: Other White	4,927	5.3%
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black Caribbean	367	0.4%
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black African	189	0.2%
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Asian	372	0.4%
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Other Mixed	302	0.3%
Asian/Asian British: Indian	522	0.6%
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	139	0.1%
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	139	0.1%
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	452	0.5%
Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	542	0.6%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	504	0.5%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	165	0.2%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black	109	0.1%
Other ethnic group: Arab	175	0.2%
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	185	0.2%

4. Organisational Impacts

4.1 Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4.2 Legal Implications

Any additions to the work programme should be made in accordance with the scope of the Committee as established within its terms of reference.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That the Committee consider the work programme and propose any suitable changes if necessary.
- 5.2 That the Committee consider items scheduled for future meetings and any necessary arrangements relating to them.