

SUBJECT:	LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK REVIEW
REPORT BY:	DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
LEAD OFFICER:	CAROLYN WHEATER – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEGAL AND CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform members of the outcome of Local Democracy Week 2013 and summarise plans for 2014.

2. Background

- 2.1 Further to previous reports to Committee, members will recall that in view of ongoing work to improve democratic engagement throughout the previous year and the close proximity of Local Democracy Week 2013, officers were requested to direct their efforts towards Local Democracy Week 2014.
- 2.2 This report is provided to update members on the current status of the Council's involvement in Local Democracy Week.

3. Summary of Activities

- 3.1 The main event of the 2013 programme was the online open forum between the Leader of the Council and local young people. The Leader was available for questioning on the afternoon of 16 October 2013 via the Council's website, Facebook, and Twitter. This was publicised to local schools in the weeks running up to the event.
- 3.2 Questions and discussion from the young people taking part in the event covered a wide variety of topics including an overall vision for the development of the city and the setting up of a youth council.
- 3.3 The numbers taking part in the event with the Leader are difficult to estimate as no figures are available for the number of young people purely viewing the exchanges rather than submitting comments. However, as an initial event the number of participants was encouraging and could potentially be increased through further work with schools either as part of the planned member-student panels or through Local Democracy Week activities.
- 3.4 The particular focus for the coming year will be the development of lesson plans relating to local democracy and the role of councillors within the life of the city. Lesson plans are currently being developed with input from councillors with teaching experience.
- 3.5 As noted previously, the emphasis will be placed upon developing lesson plans

which can be used by schools on an independent basis without requiring the presence of officers during the day. This will mean that a greater number of pupils can be reached while minimising the impact upon staff resources.

4. Organisational Impacts

4.1 Finance

There are no financial implications to this report, although any additional events or activities will need to be funded from existing budgets.

4.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications to this report.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That the report be noted.