

SUBJECT:	LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK UPDATE
REPORT BY:	DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update on plans for Local Democracy Week 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. 2014 Plans

3.1 In keeping with plans previously discussed by members, focus has been placed upon developing ideas which can benefit as many young people as possible without expending significant financial or officer resources.

3.2 As such, a draft lesson plan has been developed for distribution to local schools and is attached as **Appendix A**. The plan is aimed at pupils in the key stage 3 age group (ages approximately 11-14 years old) and has the following aims:

- To understand the role of local government in Lincoln and elsewhere.
- To learn how local people of all ages can exercise their democratic rights.
- To gather young people's views on why some people might not vote in elections.

3.3 If members are content with the direction of the proposed lesson plan, it would be possible to create further plans covering different topics and age groups. Suggestions in this regard would be welcomed. Having developed a pack which is suitable for distribution, it will then be necessary to encourage schools to incorporate the lesson plans within their teaching schedules. If the schools and members were amenable, it could also be possible for members in the local ward to contribute towards the delivery of the lessons.

3.4 As with previous attempts to engage with local schools and young people, schools will be approached for a suitable contact person who can offer feedback on the Council's proposals. However, members should note that recent experience in

dealing with schools has suggested that local democracy is a relatively low priority when set against other more pressures in education. In particular, attempts to expand on the member-student panels held in 2013 have been unsuccessful to date despite continued efforts with a number of different schools.

- 3.5 As highlighted elsewhere on the agenda, a further proposal of relevance to Local Democracy Week would be holding a State of the Area debate during the week. This incorporates the possibility of children or schools contributing towards the debate itself.

4. Organisational Impacts

4.1 Finance

There are no financial implications from this report.

4.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications from this report.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That members note the plans for Local Democracy Week 2014 and offer any suggestions or comments for improvement.