Introduction

Derry City and Strabane District Council is again offering a range of opportunities for local schools and colleges in the Derry and Strabane area to learn more about, and get involved in, local democracy. The Council’s programme of free events has been set out by the Member Services Officer and is outlined in this brochure.

What do young people get from the programme?

- Be listened to and express their view on political roles.
- Get to know their local Councillors and learn about their roles and responsibilities.
- Find out about the democratic and decision making processes and how they can take part.

What do Councillors get out of the programme?

- Promote their work in communities and explain their role and responsibilities.
- Tell young people how Derry City and Strabane District Council operates.
- Engage with young people on a face-to-face basis to increase their confidence in Councillors.
- Listen to young people’s views to gain a better understanding of what is important to them.
- Tell young people about how they can get involved in the local democratic process.

Local Democracy Week

Local Democracy Week is an annual European-wide campaign that aims, on a national level, to raise young people’s awareness of how local councils operate. It informs them about opportunities for taking part in local decision-making, and as a result, draws attention to how their involvement in local affairs is crucial in upholding local democracy. This year, Local Democracy Week takes place 10th – 16th October 2016.
Local Democracy Week 2016 – What is the event?

Last year, Derry City and Strabane District Council, hosted a series of events that were attended by almost 300 children and young people of all ages during Local Democracy Week.

This year, Derry City and Strabane District Council will be hosting a series of events held over 3 days for children and young people during Local Democracy Week. The events will take place on Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th and Friday 14th October 2016.

These events will provide hands-on education and involvement for all ages and will include:

- Find out how they can influence reshaping Derry City and Strabane District Council and have a say in it;
- Be listened to and express their views on political roles.
- Get to know their local Councillors and learn about their roles and responsibilities;
- Find out how the democratic and decision making processes work and how they can take part.

Who are the events aimed at?

There will be 4 half day events:

- Wednesday 12th October (morning) – for young people aged 15-18 years.
- Thursday 13th October (morning) – for primary school children of all ages.
- Friday 14th October (morning) – for young people aged 15-24 years.
- Friday 14th October (afternoon) – for young people aged 11-18 years

The events will take place in the Guildhall, Derry, however, on request the events can also be scheduled to take place in the Derry Road Offices, Strabane.

If you would like to take part in this event, contact Karen Henderson, Member Services Officer on 028 71376527 or email karen.henderson@derrystrabane.com
Local Democracy Week 2016 – Programme of Events

Young Persons Debate “Rock Enrol”

Date: Wednesday 12th October 2016
Time: 10 am – 12 pm (lunch provided)
Venue: Council Chamber, The Guildhall
(NB: this event can be facilitated in the Derry Road Offices, Strabane if requested)

What is this event?
Encouraging democratic engagement and increasing the numbers of young people on the electoral register is really important. Rock Enrol is the perfect way to inspire young people to discuss and debate what they care about whilst considering why they should register to vote. The Young Persons’ ‘Question Time’ type event gives young people aged 16 to 18 years the opportunity to meet with local Councillors and discuss the issues that are important to them.

Who is this event for?
This event is for young people aged between 16 and 18 years and local Councillors to engage on any issue that young people want to discuss. The Council Chamber voting and sound system can be used to create the right environment.

If you would like to take part in this event, contact Karen Henderson, Member Services Officer on 028 71376527 or email karen.henderson@derrystrabane.com

Note: Anyone attending should have a question prepared in advance and submitted to the Member Services Officer on arrival at the event.
Local Democracy Week 2016 – Programme of Events

The City and District’s Number One Citizen
And “Do You Get the Guildhall?”

Date: Thursday 13th October 2016
Time: 9.30 am – 12 pm (lunch provided)
Venue: Main Hall, The Guildhall, Derry

What is the event?
The Mayor has a high profile role in maintaining and promoting the interests of the City and District and its citizens, by attending a variety of civic engagements during the year. The Mayor is elected each year by his or her fellow Councillors at the Annual General Meeting.

Young People will get the chance to meet with the current Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Alderman Hilary McClintock. Young People will discover some interesting facts about the Mayor’s role as first citizen of the City and District.

There will be a number of planned activities for young people (ie) drawing a Portrait of the Mayor, writing out a few points to on what young people would do if “I were Mayor for the Day”.

Young people will also avail of a tour of the Guildhall followed by a quiz and take part in a light hearted debate with an opportunity to understand the voting process. Additional activities are also planned which will give young people an understanding the work of Derry City and Strabane District Council.

Who is the event for?
This event is open to primary school children who are interested in learning more about the civic role of the Mayor and understanding the work of Derry City and Strabane District Council.

If you would like to take part in this event, contact Karen Henderson, Member Services Officer on 028 71376527 or email karen.henderson@derrystrabane.com
European Youth Capital / Empowering Youth Citizenship

Date: Friday 13th October 2016
Time: 10 am – 3 pm (lunch provided)
Venue: Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Derry

NB: this event can be facilitated in the Derry Road Offices, Strabane if requested

What is the event?
The event will be an opportunity for young people to receive an update on the bid to become European Youth Capital in 2019 and for young people to help design how they can play a local role in decision making. It will look at the current role in which young people engage within the business of the Council, as well as establishing ways in which Council and its stakeholders could better engage young people across the city and district.

The most important aspect of the European Youth Capital designation, is listening to and responding positively to the voice of youth and providing a lasting legacy post 2019.

The event will challenge young people to answer the ‘Big Questions’ such as –

- Why do we need leaders / politicians?
- Why are there different political parties?
- How do you, as a group of young people become involved, guarantee your contribution and influence the decisions made within Derry and Strabane?

The event will follow the SOLE (Self Organised Learning Experience) model of learning, allowing young people to evaluate and determine solutions to problems in groups, which will ultimately develop ways in which young people’s views can be better incorporated within Council’s business going forward.

All constructed methods will be taken forward and used within the development of a model for youth engagement within democracy, not only for Derry and Strabane but as a model of good practice across Northern Ireland as part of a flagship intervention for the European Youth Capital Bid.

Who is the event for?
The event is aimed at young people aged between 15-24 years old and Officers from Derry City and Strabane District Council.

If you would like to take part in any of these events, contact Karen Henderson, Member Services Officer on 028 71376527 or email karen.henderson@derrystrabane.com
Local Democracy Week 2016 – Programme of Events

Councillors Go Back to School!

What is the event?
This event gives each Councillor a chance to visit schools in their area or ward. It will give Councillors the opportunity to explain to young people their roles and responsibilities and the work that they do in their local area. The event will act as a forum for young people to engage with their Councillors in a question and answer session.

Who is the event for?
This event is for young people of all ages and local Councillors to engage.

When and where is the event?
This event can take place at Schools and Colleges within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area. Visits can be made to your school during October/November 2016, however, we ask that you allow for diary and time constraints.

If you would like further information or would like to take part, contact Karen Henderson, Member Services Officer on 02871376527 or email karen.henderson@derrystrabane.com

Council Meetings

Derry City and Strabane District Council holds regular meetings that members of the public can attend.

At the Council meetings you will be able to see how decisions are made by Councillors and what issues have to be considered in the decision-making process. You don’t have to stay for the whole meeting; you can just stay for a while to get a taster of what it’s all about. So come alone and find out how the decisions, that effect the daily lives of people living in the City and District.

Who is the event for?
The event is for young people aged between 16 and 18 years.

If you would like to attend any Committee Meeting or would like further information, please contact Karen Henderson, Member Services Officer on 02871376527 or email karen.henderson@derrystrabane.com