Local Democracy Week 2015

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 from 12th – 16th October 2015.

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

What do young people get from the programme?

- Find out information on the services that Derry City and Strabane District Council provides.
- 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 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 the Council currently 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.
Programme of Events – 12th – 16th October 2015

The City and District’s Number One Citizen

Monday 12th October 2015
10 am until 12 pm (The Guildhall, Derry)
1 pm until 3 pm (Derry Road Offices, Strabane)

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, Councillor Elisha McCallion. 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”, and a light hearted debate. There will also be a prize for the best Portrait.

Young people will also avail of a tour of the Guildhall and Derry Road Offices and will get the Opportunity to view the portraits of all the past Mayors.

Who is the event for?

This event is open to primary school children and secondary school pupils who are interested in learning more about the civic role of the Mayor.

If you would like to take part in this event, contact Karen Henderson, Member Services Officer on 028 71376527 or email karen.henderson@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com.gov.uk
**Political Speed Dating**

**Tuesday 13th October 2015**  
10 am until 12 pm (The Guildhall, Derry)

Political Speed Dating is a fun and light hearted way for young people to meet and find out more about the role Councillors play in the community and how Councillors can represent young people’s rights and views at a local level. This will be an opportunity for young people to engage with Elected Members whilst enabling them to discuss their most important issues – it also allows for young people to get a sense of the difficult and important decisions Elected Members have to make.

**Who is the event for?**

This event is open to secondary school students and Elected Members. It gives young people an opportunity to engage and get to know Elected Members.

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

**Young Persons Debate**

**Wednesday 14th October 2015**  
10 am until 12 pm (The Guildhall, Derry)  
1 pm – 3 pm (Derry Road Offices, Strabane)

**What is this event and who is it for?**

The Young Persons’ ‘Question Time’ type event gives secondary school pupils and young people aged 11 to 18 years the opportunity to meet with local Councillors and discuss the issues that are important to them. It will involve a tour of the Guildhall/Derry Road Offices and a debate in the Council Chamber.

**Who is this event for?**

This event is for young people and local Councillors to engage on any issue that young people want to discuss.

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

**Note:** Anyone attending should have a question prepared in advance and submitted to the Member Services Officer on arrival at the event.

Thursday 15th October 2015
10 am until 12 pm (The Guildhall, Derry)

What is this event and who is it aimed at?

This event will provide an opportunity for young people to engage with Officers from Derry City and Strabane District Council in relation to the Council’s development plans and services for people living in the local community.

Who is the event for?

The event is aimed at young people aged between 11-18 and Officers from 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@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com.gov.uk
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 2015, 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@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com.gov.uk

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@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com.gov.uk