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CAI.19 14/15
Challenge and Improvement Committee
28th October 2014

Subject:	**DEMOCRACY WORKING GROUP**

Report by:	Head of Central Services
Contact Officer:	Alan Robinson Head of Central Services 01427 676509 Alan.robinson@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To establish a Task and Finish group of Members to commission a programme of work to promote Democracy in West Lindsey.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Members:
1. establish a task and finish group to agree the scope for a number of projects to promote local democracy in West Lindsey;
2. nominate three members to form the task and finish group; and
3. request for the task and finish group to report back to Challenge and Improvement Committee with their findings.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

Financial : None **FIN/82/15**

Staffing : None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : N/A

Risk Assessment : N/A

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
None

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes		No	✔

Key Decision:

Yes		No	✔

1   Introduction

1.1   The promotion of democracy in West Lindsey has been considered by
        Members as part of their discussions at meetings of the Members Forum.
        Councillors felt that it was important that West Lindsey promoted participation
        in local democracy, both in terms of voting and becoming candidates.

1.2   The administration has also made this one of their priorities for the 2015/2016
        civic year and have appointed Councillor Roger Patterson to act as the
        Member Champion for this work.

2.   Task and Finish Working Group of Members

2.1   It has been suggested that a Task and Finish Group be established to develop
        2 or 3 projects to deliver against this priority.

2.2   The group would be required to report back to the Challenge and
        Improvement Committee.

2.3   The deliverable for the group would be to develop the scope for a number of
        projects to achieve the priority outcome of more participation in the
        democratic process.

3.   Considerations for the Scope

3.1   The group will be required to develop the scope for 2 or 3 projects to deliver
        the outcomes. They would also consider:
        • the outcomes and objectives;
        • measures of success;
        • resources required;
        • timescales;
        • stakeholder analysis; and
        • risks.

3.2   The Member Forum has suggested that the work should be aimed at:
        • Schools & young people
        • Early workers & first time voters
        • Non-voters

3.3   The desired outcomes suggested by the Member Forum are
- Increased number of voters;
- Increased understanding of Council work - how it works and issues faced; and
- Promote community cohesion

4   Conclusion

4.1   The Member Forum have asked Challenge and Improvement Committee to consider how the Council may deliver a number of key outcomes. It is recommended that a Task and Finish Group be established to scope a number of projects and report back to this Committee. The initial findings of the Member Forum group is attached as Appendix A for your information.

DEMOCRACY

Who:
- Schools & young people
- Early workers & first time voters
- Non-voters

How:
- Invites to Council Chamber for events & meetings
- Working in schools. Talks by Councillors in the citizenship lessons and in school councils.
- Planning Committee into the community for meetings once a year.
- Council into the community for special events.
- More positive publicity
- Sponsorship of Junior Safety Officers
- Flying the flag
- Youth Council - Nominated reps in communities/colleges, Junior Parish Councils
- Promoting how to run for Council
- Birthday Cards
- Young Citizen of the year and school of the year

When:
- Year 1 Plan an election cycle and plot activities to obtain stats on:
  - how many schools,
  - do they have flags & flag poles
  - how will we know of birthdays and what would be the cost to the council
  - How many 16-17year olds do we have, logistics and costings to run a youth council.
- Talk to the boards and heads of school to get buy in and emphasize our help with the school curriculum subject of citizenship.
- Plan for a Council event for young people 2015

Why:
- Increase voters
- Increased understanding of Council work, how it works and issues faced
- Promote community cohesion

Although this is aimed at schools, children will take home the message to parents and when we have events in the Council Chamber involving children they will inevitably be accompanied by teachers, parents & grandparents

Next steps are to take this via the Member's Forum, where hopefully it will be referred to C & I for feasibility and information gathering on stats & costs.