

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Special Council Meeting 2012 13th September 2012

Report of Democratic Services Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the committee on preparations for the Special Council meeting

This report is public

Recommendations:

To note arrangements for the Special Council meeting, being held on Wednesday 17th October, 1-4pm, in the Banqueting Suite of Lancaster Town Hall.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In April, Council Business Committee agreed to focus the forthcoming Special Council on meeting young people from across the district, and asked Community Engagement to provide a session of political speed dating followed by the Pupil Power game. This would contribute to the council's Community Leadership priority, by making links with a section of the community which often has little contact with the council.
- 1.2 Subsequently, council officers have advertised the meeting to councillors and young people throughout the district, inviting every secondary school and college to nominate four students to take part. Similarly, the Young Peoples' Service, Signpost, and the YMCA have been invited to nominate attendees.
- 1.3 At the time of writing this report, 26 councillors have confirmed their attendance, along with a similar number of students. Those schools which have yet to respond will be contacted early in the new term to establish whether they will be taking part.
- 1.4 Whilst the meeting is viable with 26 councillors, it is hoped that a greater number can be encouraged to attend, with members of Council Business Committee acting as advocates for the event within their political groups.

2 Details of the meeting

- 2.1 As with all meetings of council, the Mayor will open the meeting, which will be run in accordance with the rules of procedure set out in the Constitution.

- 2.2 That however, is almost where the comparisons with a normal council meeting end. The first item on the agenda is political speed dating, in which councillors will sit down with students for three minutes at a time to find out what they see as the major issues in the district, and to answer any questions. When three minutes are up, the students will move round to the next councillor, or group of councillors, depending on the numbers attending.
- 2.3 Prior to the speed dating, Councillor Aitchison, the council's Champion for Young People, has agreed to say a few words of welcome and explain his role to the students. The speed dating itself will last for approximately an hour and is intended to break the ice and set an informal tone to the afternoon.
- 2.4 Political speed dating will be followed by Pupil Power, a game which councillors will play in mixed teams with students. Each team will have a fixed budget for the new financial year, but one which will not meet the cost of all existing services. Therefore, each team will need to prioritise their resources.
- 2.5 Whilst this is a strictly fictional exercise, elected members can gain an insight into those areas of council activity which young people feel particularly strongly about, and why.
- 2.6 Officers from Community Engagement will be present on the day to facilitate both activities, with support provided by Democratic Services.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications. Any costs are minimal and will be met from within existing budgets.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None.

Information Services:

None.

Property:

None.

Open Spaces:

None.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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