

COUNCIL MEETING 13 NOVEMBER

LOCAL DEMOCRACY EVENT REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXEC (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Inform members of the success of the local Democracy event and in particular the engagement of children aged 5-11yrs to discuss the skills and qualities required of an elected Councillor.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council support and embrace further local democracy work with children and young people, in particular to develop Local Democracy Week as an annual celebration.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 As part of the Countywide Active Involvement Strategy the council are committed to promoting opportunities to engage children and young people in decision-making processes and to give them as much influence as possible.
- 3.2 Our vision is that Hinckley and Bosworth is a borough where its young citizens feel that their right to have a say is encouraged, welcomed, valued and respected.

4. LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK EVENT

- 4.1 During the national Local Democracy Week in October 2012, an event was held with 34 children aged between 8 and 11 years, from 12 primary schools in the Council Chamber.
- 4.2 The aim of the event was to hold a local interactive and child-friendly event to help to meet these principles and introduce young people to local democracy.
- 4.3 The event was a great success and the engagement exceptional. The children had the opportunity to learn about how the council works, the principles of democracy and what it means to vote. They took part in a debate, activities and a question and answer session with members.
- 4.4 They also had the opportunity to discuss and decide what they thought made the perfect Councillor. The outcome of this was fascinating and really highlighted how the children felt. Please refer to Appendix A which summarises the key attributes required.
- 4.5 Outcomes - A number of questions were posed which the children then voted yes or no to and these will be used to help in setting priorities for the work focus over the next 12 months with this age group. For example: Do you eat five portions of fruit and vegetables every day?
- 4.6 The results have given us a good indication on how to focus future engagement and education; none of the children present at the event eat 5 portions of fruit or vegetables every day.

4.7 The children also had a debate around play and the feedback from this will help to inform the Play Charter and its implementation.

4.8 The children received a certificate and a book, the teachers also took away a learning pack to enable them to cascade the learning back within the school environment.

4.9 This local democracy event was the first phase of working more effectively with primary school age children and an ongoing programme is to be developed.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [PE]

5.1 The cost of the event was encompassed within the existing Children and Young people's budget.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AB]

6.1 No legal implications arising from this report

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This event supports the Corporate Plan and in particular developing strong and distinctive communities

8. CONSULTATION

The consultation for this event has been ongoing and has been an identified gap through work across the county with the seven other districts as well as via the county wide active involvement group.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

All the primary schools within Hinckley and Bosworth were invited to attend and the engagement was very positive. There were schools represented from town centre and rural locations, including Thornton, Stoke Golding, Sheepy Magna and Groby.

11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

There are a number of strategies, local, County and nationally that reference active involvement and its importance. These will be encompassed where appropriate within officer work priorities.

Background papers: Appendix 1

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Portfolio Holder: Cllr. David Cope

Member Champion: Cllr Mathew Hulbert

Appendix 1 Local Democracy Event

As part of the activities that the children took part in, they were asked to draw around themselves and then to discuss what they thought were the skills and qualities needed for the perfect councillor.

Once they had taken part in this discussion, they were asked to pick the top two from their list below is the combined list of top skills and qualities.

