

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15TH February 2007

DEVELOPING LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Purpose of Report

1. This Report asks the Committee to note the information in this report.

Background

2. In October 2006, the County Council sought to use the context of the national Local Democracy Campaign and week of activities, to engage with young people across the county.

A series of outreach sessions were held with groups of young people across the seven districts with over 70 young people taking part. The aim was to encourage young people to develop their knowledge about how local democracy works; identify some of the barriers and explore possible solutions. All the views and ideas were inscribed on cardboard bricks – these bricks were displayed at County Hall in the Grand.

The views and ideas of young people are summarised below:-

- Informal meetings to introduce young people to local councillors
- Referenda by text messaging
- Using School Councils as a forum to discuss local community matters
- Youth Councils to be set up in each District
- Informal meetings between young people and councillors to build relationships and mutual understanding
- Councillors riding on the school bus to talk to young people on their territory
- Youth Workers to be used as a bridge between councillors and young people
- Two way communications
- Develop a young peoples page by using Council newsletter

Plans are well underway to ‘tour’ the Democracy Wall at libraries for approximately 10 day slots. It is expected that some branches will use the wall as a focus for discussion with young people.

The proposed timetable for the ‘tour’ is:

Democracy Wall Timetable for Branches

5.02.07 - 14.02.07	Harrogate Library
19.02.07 - 28. 02.07	Northallerton Library
5.03.07 - 14.03.07	Skipton Library
19.03.07 - 28.03.07	Scarborough Library
02.04.07 - 11.04.07	Pickering Library

Recommendations

3. The Committee is asked to:
 - (a) Note the information in this report

Hugh Williamson
Head of Scrutiny & Performance

Date: 7th February 2006

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Background Papers: None