

LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members with details relating to the nationally promoted Local Democracy Week and seeks Members' views as to whether the Council should support a motion being promoted by the Local Government Association in connection with Local Democracy Week.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 For a number of years the Local Government Association have been promoting Local Democracy Week. This year, Local Democracy Week will take place from 14th to 18th October, 2002.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Arising out of Local Democracy Week, for a number of years the District Council has promoted a Citizenship Debate involving the four secondary schools in the District hosted by the Chairman of the Council. The Citizenship Debate planned for this municipal year will take place on 13th February, 2003.
- 3.2 The mobile exhibition unit will be sited in Rochford on Tuesday, 15th October, and in Rayleigh, Wednesday, 16th October (to coincide with market days) promoting Local Democracy Week and more specifically the services of the Authority.
- 3.3 In addition this year Councils have been asked to write to their local Members of Parliament asking them to support the following early day motion promoted by the Local Government Association and Partner organisations to support:

“That this house expresses its support for Local Democracy Week, which is being held between 14 and 18 October; congratulates local councils, the Local Government Association, the British Youth Council, Charter 88, the Citizenship Foundation, the County Council's Network, the Improvement and Development Agency, the Institute for Citizenship, the New Economics Foundation, SOLACE, and DEMOS for promoting this initiative, notes that the theme of Local Democracy Week this year is 'the communicating council', which involves improving consultation and participation with the public, raising

awareness of the role and functions of local councils and improving the communications capacity of councils; and encourages honourable members to work with their local council and partners to promote local democracy in their areas.”

- 3.4 Members are now asked for their views as to whether they wish this Authority to support such a motion and write to the local Members of Parliament accordingly.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The resources around Local Democracy Week and the Citizenship debate with schools are covered within the existing budgetary parameters.

5 RECOMMENDATION

5. It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** whether to support the motion as outlined and write to the two local Members of Parliament accordingly. (CEX)

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Background Papers:

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