

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting21st June 2018

1. Title of Item/Report

National Democracy Week 2018

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that informed Members about the inaugural 2018 National Democracy Week (NDW) organised by Cabinet Office and outlined the proposed campaign of activities and events for participating.

Democratic Services sought the views of Cabinet about the Council's participation in National Democracy Week 2018. 'business as usual' events/activities would be conducted which fitted in with the NDW theme and aims, raising awareness about how residents could make sure that their voice was heard and promoting voter registration.

NDW branding would be used and publicity would be made through the Council's network of partners, social media and the Council website. This would include:

- National 'Suffrage Centenary' initiatives (e.g. 'Vote 100' ; 'EqualTeas')
- UK Youth Parliament's 'Make your mark' Ballot

The National Democracy Week 2018 Programme would include:

- 'Stand for what you believe in' 'Be a Councillor' campaign
- July's Citizenship Ceremony hosted by the Mayor at the Town hall
- 'Meet the Mayor' and 'Town Hall tours'
- 'Getting Hard' workshops
- School Council Assemblies & Elections
- Voter Registration
- National Democracy Week web page

The NDW Programme would be delivered by following standard practice of:

- i. collaborating with other Council Services (e.g. Communications;

Registrars; Youth Direction) and external organisations / groups (e.g. Catalyst; schools and colleges; parish/town councils)

- ii. involving the Mayor through her civic engagements; and
- iii. maximise the use of existing activities, events and meetings in the democracy diary

Participation in National Democracy Week would be an extension of the work that the Council was already doing to increase registration amongst under-registered groups across the borough and democratic participation. It would also support the ongoing performance targets to maximise voter registration and accuracy of the voter register.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted.
2. The Council participate in 2018 National Democracy Week.
3. The programme for the 2018 NDW campaign be agreed.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Council has previously participated in European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) over a number of years. In September 2017, the Government announced the launch of National Democracy Week in the summer of 2018, which will supersede ELDW. All Councils have been asked to participate in NDW so Cabinet is being asked to give its views about our participation.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, 29 June 2018.

Proper Officer
25 June 2018