



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Let's Talk Event</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	The Leisure and Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For information

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Cultural Services Manager

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£5,000 agreed in 2019/20 action plan (75% funded by TEO)
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	13101
Staffing Costs	Within budget

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	GR Strategy Screened 2018
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date: n/a
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	Date: 2018
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes	Date: 2018
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## **1. Purpose of Report**

**The purpose of the report is to seek participation from Elected Representatives from all parties and independent's in Council's annual Let's Talk event on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 which is included as part of its Good Relations Plan.**

## **2. Background**

As outlined in the Corporate Business Plan though resilient, healthy and engaged communities, the event is a youth citizenship project delivered as part of Council's Good Relations strategic theme for Our Children and Young People. The project is delivered as a Let's Talk event which aims to increase awareness on local citizenship and increase awareness of cultural and political diversity.

Council's Good Relations audit identified the need to develop the leadership capacity of pre-teens and young adults to play a full and active role in building a shared and cohesive society. The overall purpose of the event is to help build the confidence of young people and encourage engagement with civic leaders to assist young people to making informed choices. The audit identified a need to assist young people in being more active in civic life and encourage and develop emerging leaders from across the Borough by engaging with local politicians and others from a different community background.

The Let's talk event involves post primary schools from across the Borough coming together to engage with political leaders via round table discussions and panel question and answer session, with participants voting for their preferred political parties taking place at the beginning and end of the event. It provides pupils from schools across the Borough with the opportunity to become more aware of who their local elected representatives are and question them about issues that are important to them.

This is an annual project that is continuing due to its ongoing success with an increase in the number of schools participating each year, hence the need for a larger venue to accommodate growing participant numbers.

The project has been adapted over the last few years using feedback from participants and councillors. Last year 98% of participants said that the programme was beneficial to them. 91% of participants reported that they are more aware of what they can do to influence decision making as a result of participating in the Let's Talk event. In 2018 there were increased participant numbers from the previous year by 32. While the initial response for taking part was poor, there was an increase in councillor participation from 7 the previous year to 12 councillors participating in 2018.

In order to ensure the event meets the aims and objectives outlined within the Good Relations Action plan, it is essential that we have enough elected representatives taking part in the event not only to give a broad perspective of cultural and political diversity that exists within our Borough, but also to ensure accommodation of the increasing participant numbers of pupils.

## **3. Resources**

The project receives 75% funding from The Executive Office through the District Council Good Relations Programme.

## **4. Next Steps**

It is requested that there is a broad representation from Elected Members participating in the event and that all political parties and independent members are represented.

Names of the Councillors who would like to participate should be forwarded to Joy Wisener, Good Relations Officer by Wednesday 25th September 2019.

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