

<b>Youth Civic Leadership - Let's Talk Event</b>	<b>12 September 2017</b>
<b>To: Leisure &amp; Development Committee For Information</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
<b>Outcome</b>	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Head of Service Community and Culture Good Relations Manager
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	N/A

**The purpose of the report is to seek nominations for elected representative participation in Council's annual Let's Talk event which is included as part of its Good Relations Plan for the 17/18 period.**

### **Background & Overview**

The 'Let's Talk' event is a youth citizenship project delivered as part of Council's Good Relations Plan (Our Children and Young People theme). The project aims to promote active citizenship, and increase awareness of cultural diversity by facilitating young people from the secondary level schools across the Borough to engage with political representatives on a range of relevant good relations and citizenship issues.

The overall purpose of the event is to help build the confidence of young people, to encourage engagement with civic leaders and to assist young people make informed choices.

The intended outcomes related to the project includes building the confidence, knowledge and skills of participants in order to increase their contribution to the development of a culture of respect and tolerance.

The event, which is complemented by a citizenship training resource undertaken by participating schools, is targeted towards all post primary schools from across the Borough. Participants engage with elected representatives via round table discussions, including panel question and answer sessions with participants.

The 2016 event attracted 64 participants from 7 schools across the Borough with positive feedback from both participants, schools and Councillors who participated. To date, expressions of interest have been received by thirteen out of the 17 post primary schools in the Borough.

This year the Let's Talk local democracy event will be hosted by the BBC's Mark Carruthers and will take place on Monday 2nd October 2016 from 9.30am – 2.30pm, in Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre in Limavady.

In order obtain broad political representation, officers are requesting two nominations from each party to participate in the event. Where there is only one party representative or should a Councillor be an Independent Member, officers have requested nominations to participate.

Officers request that details of Councillors participating be forwarded to Patricia Cameron, Good Relations Manager by Monday 18th September 2017.