

10 To consider motion:-

In recognition of this Council's support for Local Democracy Week, Council welcomes the new powers for Local Authorities proposed in the Strong and Prosperous Communities Bill.

Within the Bill we particularly welcome the proposed role of Councillors as Community champions with a strategic vision for their wards as well as the City. Council recognises that, to be effective in fulfilling their role, Councillors will need to work closely with and talk to Officers at levels of the Authority and that this principle should be safeguarded in the current governance and neighbourhood arrangements.

This Council commits itself to the creation of sustainable and democratic communities, encouraging active citizenship and democratic engagement by:

- further developing of the role of area committees;
- wide consultation on matters of local concern;
- events such as those that take place in Local Democracy Week;
- the promotion of Councillors and their key roles within their communities;
- ensuring Councillors and where appropriate ward Councillors are given the opportunity to chair all Council consultation meetings;
- notifying Councillors of all significant expenditure or activity planned and then delivered in their wards;
- committing to the inclusion of photographs on letterheads, business cards and compliments slips for every City Councillor to support their recognition and therefore accountability to their constituents;
- improving support to Councillors in dealing with casework and in their role as "place shapers".

**Councillor I MacLennan**