

Area Committee West – 17th March 2010

## **6. Presentation from Holyrood Student Forum**

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### **Purpose of the Presentation**

The student forum at Holyrood School have been a valuable asset in the consultation for the Chard Regeneration Scheme and it is a relationship which is being developed to encourage greater engagement between the School and the District Council.

Members of the student forum, Elissa Leigh Stevens, Amy Stanton, Gemma Evans, Amy Raymond, Beth Stapleforth, Craig Grant and Sam Poole, have been invited to give a short 10 minute presentation on their experience of Democracy Day.

The fifth annual South Somerset District Council Democracy Day, organised by the Democratic Services team, took place at The Gateway Church, Yeovil on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Each year a different theme is devised and because generally in the planning process young people do not normally get an opportunity to express their views about the place they live, the planning team suggested that this could be an ideal opportunity to gather the views of some young people.

100 school students from across the district were invited to take part in the day in January alongside 12 South Somerset Councillors. Groups were asked to come up with suggestions to improve Government policies and to present their mini manifestos for change.

The students will talk about their involvement in Democracy Day and the issues surrounding building for the future.