

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting29th November 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Youth Participation

2. Record of the Decision

Further to the meeting of Cabinet held on 6th September 2012 (Min No CAB 68/12 refers), consideration was given to an update on the proposed draft new model for the election of the Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) and establishment of a more representative and democratically appointed Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA); which was currently the subject of on-going consultation with young people and stakeholders.

The new model for Youth Participation:-

- sought to replace the former Shadow Youth Board with a more representative "Youth Assembly" made up of representatives from a range of existing youth forums (e.g. school councils, BME, young carers, sixth forms, special needs reps) and the UK Member of the youth parliament;
- provide that the MYP should be a representative on the youth assembly so that young people's voices in the Borough were heard on a local, regional and national level;
- ensured that local youth elections for YMP and the Youth Assembly were held every two years with support from Democratic Services, Electoral Services;
- encouraged the Integrated Youth Support Service to work with young people directly in youth led action projects, actively encouraging youth involvement and community change;
- sought to involve young people in innovative and accessible ways, taking part in consultations to guide the work we do as a Council;
- provided information to young people about our projects, the work of the Council and other youth services.

The guiding principles for the model were based on guidance provided by the British Youth Council (BYC) and the proposed membership was to be drawn from 11 – 19 year olds (up to 25 year olds for young people with special needs) from the following groups in the first instance:

- School Councils (secondary), Academies, Independents and Sixth Forms (1 member from each)
- Colleges (1 Member from each)
- Universal Youth Clubs (1 Member from each township – Stockton Billingham Ingleby Barwick Thornaby and Yarm)
- BME (via Cornerhouse) (2 Members)
- Young Carers (via Eastern Ravens) (2 Members)
- LDD Representatives plus appropriate Advocacy Support (possibly via Special Schools but not mutually exclusive to one organisation) (2 Members)
- LAC/ Care Leavers (via CiC Council) (1 Member from LAC 1 member from CIC Lets take Action Group)
- Member of the UK Youth Parliament (1 Member)

On-going discussions and consultations had and were continuing to take place with young people already involved in a variety of groups including the shadow board with a view to involving those young people in supporting the transition to the new SYA. The Youth Providers Network (an inclusive group of partners and organisations involved in providing services for young people) had also been informed / consulted and responses / feedback received had been supportive to the proposed more effective model of youth engagement and participation for young people in Stockton.

Details were provided of the proposed SYA nomination process; member induction and on-going development and the forthcoming election of a new Member of Youth Parliament in February 2013; along with the suggested governance framework for the Assembly and options regarding the appointment of its Chair and Vice Chair. It was anticipated that the SYA would be established from April 2013 and would initiate development of its own work plan firstly through the holding of an Annual Borough Debate to which all of the Council's elected representatives and appropriate stakeholders would be invited.

It was also noted that the Council's young residents' panel, previously known as Youth Viewpoint, was also currently in the process of being reconfigured, and renamed, with a view to distributing the first questionnaire to the refreshed young residents' panel in early 2013. The reconfiguration work aimed to create a statistically representative panel of 1,100 young people from across the Borough (including young people who are NEET, 'looked after' and participating in a youth offending scheme) aged between 10 – 19 years, as well as including young people with learning disabilities aged up to 25 years. Once established, the Panel would provide officers in the Council and partner organisations a way to engage with young residents about service and policy planning, development and improvement and would also be able to help inform and

evaluate the work of the Borough's Youth Assembly from April 2013. Arrangements for initial awareness raising and publicity for the new model for Youth Participation was also submitted.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Cabinet approve the proposals for the development of the new model for Youth Participation, and any further ancillary matters be delegated to the Corporate Director of Children, Education & Social Care for determination in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Children & Young People and Corporate Management and Finance.

2. Consultation be held with existing members of the Shadow Youth Board regarding the options identified in respect of the Chair and Vice Chair arrangements of the Assembly for its first year.

3. The outcome of the consultation carried out with young people and stakeholders to date, be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To establish a new structure establishing a more representative and democratically elected Youth Assembly.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

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

Midnight on Friday, 7th December 2012

Proper Officer
03 April 2012