

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting12th March 2015

1. Title of Item/Report

Stockton Youth Assembly - End of Term Report

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented an update on the work of the Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) since its formation in September 2013.

A new model for Youth Participation in Stockton was agreed by Cabinet to replace the former Shadow Youth Board with a more representative Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) to provide a way for young people to contribute to matters affecting them and give the Council a youth perspective when planning and developing services. Members were appointed to the SYA for a two year term of office, and 19 young people were appointed as SYA members, representing eight schools, sixth forms and colleges across the borough, universal youth clubs, young carers, looked after children, young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD). Members also included Stockton's Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) and Deputy MYP. At the first meeting Jessica Belch, MYP, was appointed as Chair of the Assembly, with Ciaran Poole, the Deputy MYP, appointed as Vice-Chair, and the SYA developed their own Code of Conduct and Rules of Procedure for meetings.

On 17 July 2014, Cabinet received an interim report which summarised the work of the Stockton Youth Assembly since the first Borough-wide Debate took place on 30 September 2013. The Borough-wide Debate brought together the SYA members, Elected Members, and key officers to discuss the key policy areas that most affected young people.

As the two year term of office had ended, the SYA had produced an End of Term report outlining the huge amount of work that they have carried out, and a copy was attached to the report.

At the July Cabinet meeting the work the SYA had carried out in shaping council services for the future, debating future needs, and engaging with the Councils Scrutiny Process was noted.

As noted in the July Cabinet report, the SYA had increased participation of young people from all communities across the borough in Council Services. The SYA had helped to make sure the Councils communicate effectively with young people and thereby ensuring that young people's voice was heard. The SYA had also engaged on a national level through the Make Your Mark campaign and on a regional level through the course of their development.

The SYA had a presence on the SBC website, which signposted young people to agendas and minutes of the SYA and contact information for the MYP and Deputy. The site would continue to be developed with content relating to SYA activity, and in a format likely to promote effective engagement with young people.

The MYP, Deputy MYP and SYA Members term of office ends in February 2015. Copies of the end of term report had been sent to all schools, sixth forms and colleges across the borough, and also youth clubs, Eastern Ravens Trust etc. to promote the SYA members work.

An election for the MYP and Deputy MYP took place in February and appointments for representatives to the SYA were being sought. Following this process, both the Local and Parliamentary Elections would take place, and the Council's AGM would be held on 3 June 2015. As previously agreed at Cabinet on 17 July the SYA Borough Wide Annual Debate would be held in June 2015 to coincide with the Councils democratic procedures and set its priorities for the following two years.

Members noted the good work of the SYA and the young people and officers that had been involved in the Assembly.

RESOLVED that the work of the SYA be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To appraise Cabinet of the work of the Stockton Youth Assembly since the Annual Debate held in September 2013.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight on Friday, 20th March 2015

Proper Officer
16 March 2015