

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

12 MARCH 2015

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Corporate Management and Finance – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor D Harrington

Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor A McCoy

STOCKTON YOUTH ASSEMBLY (SYA) END OF TERM FINAL REPORT

1. Summary

To present Cabinet with an update on the work of Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) since their formation in September 2013.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

1. Note the work of the SYA.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

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

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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CABINET DECISION

STOCKTON YOUTH ASSEMBLY (SYA) END OF TERM FINAL REPORT

SUMMARY

This report presents Cabinet with an update on the work of the Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) since its formation in September 2013

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

1. Note the work of the SYA.

DETAIL

Background

1. Members will recall that 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.
2. 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 following key policy areas that most affected young people:
 - Health & Wellbeing
 - Getting Ready for Work
 - Arts and Leisure
 - Police & Crime

- Communities & Environment

3. As the two year term of office has now ended, the SYA has produced an End of Term report outlining the huge amount of work that they have carried out, and a copy is attached at **Appendix 1**.

The Work Programme

4. 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. This included:

- Over their first two meetings the SYA considered and contributed to the development of key governance documents in respect of their Code of Conduct and Rules of Procedure for SYA meetings, outlining acceptable behaviour accepted at the meetings and as a member of the SYA. The British Youth Council and the Council's Code of Conducts/Rules of Procedure were used as examples of best practice.
- SYA Members contributed views towards the topic of Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing, examining the needs of children and young people and whether services were available to meet these needs. This was part of a wider consultation the Public Health Team carried out. The SYA's views were taken on board and the Public Health returned to the final formal meeting to update the results of the consultation, presenting SYA Members with information on the new School Nurse arrangement.
- The Leisure and Sports Development Manager consulted with the SYA on the development of a Sport and Leisure programme for young people. A Task and Finish group was set up to give further feedback and the SYA highlighted the importance of getting the pricing structure correct, having appropriate venues from which to provide activities that were available for use after school and at weekends; to have reliable public transport, and have a diverse range of sports and leisure offer within the programme.
- The Community Safety Team consulted with the SYA to ensure that a questionnaire they devised to take into schools to address young people's concerns regarding robbery was appropriate for the audience. The Community Safety Team amended their approach to include the SYA's feedback.
- The SYA took forward a local campaign regarding better work experience and apprenticeships, as part of the National Curriculum for Life and had an input into the Children & Young People Select Committee's Scrutiny Review of Education and Employment, shaping the Select Committee's recommendations to Cabinet. The Members campaigned for these issues to be debated at the next Make Your Mark campaign in 2014, as noted below.
- SYA Members took part in the BYC's Votes at 16 campaign via their informal meetings.

- The Chair of the SYA/MYP attended the Annual Sitting in July with other MYPs to discuss a number of campaigns and work towards the development of the Make Your Mark issues which would be voted on later in the year
- The SYA championed the Young Carers Quest Project, raising general awareness of the contribution of young carers and their needs. Two members of the SYA presented to the BYC regional convention on the project.

5. Since July the SYA also:

- Contributed their views to the Police and Crime Panel Task and Finish Group's review to explore the work carried out by the Police and Community Safety in Schools, sharing their experiences of Police work in their schools.
- SYA Members were the first to be consulted on the design of Stockton Borough Council's new website, ensuring that it would be "inviting" to young people.
- Catalyst sought the views of the SYA when consulting on the development of a volunteer strategy for the Borough.
- The Children and Young People Partnership consulted with the SYA on how to engage with young people. Following an initial discussion at an SYA meeting, a Task and Finish Group meeting was held to explore ideas and discuss how they could work in practice. The group believed that using social media to ask individual questions would be the best method to engage with young people, and agreed to trial this method to see how successful it will be.
- SYA Members Spent time engaging with young people through schools and youth projects to complete the Make your Mark ballot in Stockton to contribute to the wider ballot in the North East and nationally. The members beat the previous year's total of completed ballot papers and it was great to see so many young people having their opinions heard. The results of the 2014 Ballot highlighted Work Experience as one of the top three issues regionally, and A Curriculum to Prepare Us for Life as one of the top three issues nationally. Better Work Experience and Careers Advice were taken forward as one of five topics debated at the UK Youth Parliament House of Commons sitting. Stockton's MYP attended the sitting and lead on the debate about Mental Health. These issues will be taken forward as campaigns for young people to look at over the coming year.
- The SYA also received updates on the development of Library Services, the development of the Give It A Go app to direct young people to activities happening in their area, and statistics and interventions for alcohol related crime.

Development Activity

6. To ensure that SYA Members were fully supported to represent young people across the borough and had the confidence to carry out the work of the SYA, it was vital that the skills they had were recognised and they were also given the opportunity to develop new skills to enhance their role. SYA members therefore:

- Completed the British Youth Council's (BYC) Youth Voice Award, which accredits hard work that young representatives do in their communities, and also challenge them to try something new, exciting and innovative.
 - Attended the BYC's Youth Voice Leadership Development Programme in April 2014, which consisted of seven tailored training courses that supported young people to be successful youth voice leaders in their community. A group of young people have been booked on to the Leadership Development Programme in April 2015.
 - Travelled to BYC regional conventions events over the past year and networked to support partners from our area in accessing these conventions including: Eastern Ravens, Billingham Youth Town Council, Skate Park User groups as well as all SYA members bringing together a real Youth Voice for Stockton feel to these meetings.
 - Held an event held celebrating Youth Voice, with groups from across the borough joining together to celebrate young people's involvement in Stockton's Youth Voice opportunities. Stockton SYA invited schools from across the borough that supported the MYP elections process, Eastern Ravens YC Aloud, Billingham Youth Town Council, and CiCC, to encourage inclusive youth voice opportunities and support working in the coming year.
 - The Chair of SYA/MYP was successful in achieving a position on the National Scrutiny Group (NSG), which is made up of young people who work with the Government and Minister to ensure that their views and needs are taken into account when developing policies that affect them. The Chair/MYP was also successful in becoming a member on the NHS Youth Forum, another national forum that she has a valued voice on.
 - The BYC has helped NHS England bring together a group of the young people to help shape health services. The group will bring together a diverse range of young people to give advice and opinions on healthcare policies, provide ideas on how services can be improved and hold both Commissioners and the NHS England Board to account for their decision making.
 - Volunteered at the Stockton Weekender which helped to increase confidence of meeting and working with many young people and adults who attended the music festival.
 - Attended the Stockton International Riverside Festival VIP event, showcasing what young people in Stockton have been involved in and the great work that they do. They were given access to see an art installation as part of the launch of the SIRF and also spend time having fun with lots of other young people from Stockton.
 - The Chair was successful in gaining a place as Procedures Group Lead and will start this role once she has completed her term as MYP in February. This is an excellent progression for her and will leave space for another very active MYP to step into the role.
7. As noted in the July Cabinet report, the SYA has increased participation of young people from all communities across the borough in Council Services. The SYA has helped to make sure the Councils communicate effectively with young people and thereby ensuring

that young people's voice is heard. The SYA has also engaged on a national level through the Make Your Mark campaign and on a regional level through the course of their development.

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

Conclusion

9. The MYP, Deputy MYP and SYA Members term of office ends in February 2015. Copies of the end of term report has 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.
10. An election for the MYP and Deputy MYP took place in February and appointments for representatives to the SYA are being sought. Following this process, both the Local and Parliamentary Elections will take place, and the Council's AGM will be held on 3 June 2015. As previously agreed at Cabinet on 17 July the SYA Borough Wide Annual Debate will held in June 2015 to coincide with the Councils democratic procedures and set its priorities for the following two years.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

11. Participation work will need to be met from existing budgets.

Legal

12. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

13. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPLICATIONS

14. Effective local democracy – manage and deliver the Member Learning and development programme

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

15. This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment as it does not involve a new policy, strategy or change in delivery of a service.

CONSULTATION

16. The SYA, which Cabinet Members for Children & Young People and Corporate Management & Finance, are members of, agreed the final report at their final meeting on 20 January.

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<u>Background Papers:</u>	None
<u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u>	Not Ward Specific
<u>Property Implications:</u>	Not applicable