

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**19 MAY 2016**

**REPORT OF SENIOR  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook**  
**Children & Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Ann McCoy**

#### **YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR THE BOROUGH**

1. Summary

To update Cabinet on the progress which has been made to increase the participation of the Borough's young people in influencing and shaping services which affect their day to day lives; and to enhance this further through Cabinet approval and support for the priorities identified in the borough's first Youth Manifesto (**Appendix 1**).

2. Recommendations

1. Cabinet note the content of the report and the draft Youth Manifesto (**Appendix 1**).
2. Cabinet agree to approve the draft Youth Manifesto to be the final version for 2016/17.
3. Cabinet agree to approve the formal publication and distribution of the Youth Manifesto across Council services, partner organisations and the community.
4. Cabinet authorise each Directorate to consider the priorities in the Youth Manifesto:
  - i) in order to identify which ones (if any) they can contribute to achieving; and
  - ii) where relevant, arrange for an appropriate item to be added to the Forward Plan of Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) so that the Assembly can be advised at some future point as to how each of the priorities in the Manifesto are to be addressed.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to make these recommendations so that the Council can continue its progress in transforming the arrangements for listening to the voices of local young people and engaging them as partners in decision making – empowering them to express their views and ideas to senior Members, officers and service providers; and be directly involved in bringing positive change in the issues which matter most to them.

#### 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)

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**19 MAY 2016**

**REPORT OF SENIOR  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET DECISION**

**Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook  
Children & Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Ann McCoy**

**YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR THE BOROUGH**

**SUMMARY**

To update Cabinet on the progress which has been made to increase the participation of the Borough's young people in influencing and shaping services which affect their day to day lives; and to enhance this further through Cabinet approval and support for the priorities identified in the borough's first Youth Manifesto (**Appendix 1**).

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Cabinet note the content of the report and the draft Youth Manifesto (Appendix 1).
2. Cabinet agree to approve the draft Youth Manifesto to be the final version for 2016/17.
3. Cabinet agree to approve the formal publication and distribution of the Youth Manifesto across Council services, partner organisations and the community.
4. Cabinet authorise each Directorate to consider the priorities in the Youth Manifesto:
  - i) in order to identify which ones (if any) they can contribute to achieving; and
  - ii) and where relevant, arrange for an appropriate item to be added to the Forward Plan of Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) so that the Assembly can be advised at some future point as to how each of the priorities in the Manifesto are to be addressed.

**BACKGROUND**

1. Cabinet, at its meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012, reviewed its arrangements for listening to the voices of local young people and engaging them as partners in decision making, and agreed to:-
  - establish a more representative and democratically appointed Youth Assembly;
  - formally organise and structure the election process for the Borough's next Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP);
2. Since then, Stockton has continued its journey of identifying various strengths and areas for development in youth participation which resulted in the re-launch of Stockton Youth Assembly with members drawn from a much wider cross section of the borough and involved over 9,000 young people in the election to decide who would represent them in the UK Youth Parliament.

## DETAIL

3. Each SYA cycle runs parallel to the term of office for the borough's representative in the UK Youth Parliament. The current MYP is Jess Hugill, a student at Conyers Sixth Form. She was elected in February 2015 and her tenure is due to end with the next MYP election in February 2017. Similarly, the current SYA term of office runs until February 2017.
4. Over the last year, young people from all over the Borough have been encouraged to get their voices heard through a variety of events and activities including:
  - The second 'Borough-wide Debate' – young people were given the opportunity to discuss with CMT, Senior Officers, Cabinet and Chairs of Scrutiny Committees issues identified as priority areas affecting young people. The feedback was used as the basis of the SYA's 'Forward Plan' (i.e. a list of topics for us to focus on during this SYA term) and is represented in the manifesto.
  - voting in the national 'Make your mark' campaign – annual campaign organised by the UK YP to find out which issues matter most to young people aged 11-18 years old. The SYA collected a massive 7,059 votes from local young people in 16 schools/academies/colleges and 23 youth clubs. As a result the top national and local priorities were identified.
  - the 'Annual Conversation' – The Council's Children and Young People's Partnership organised this event to provide young people with an opportunity to identify priority health issues and the improvements we would like to see. Around 50 young people attended alongside the relevant Cabinet Member, the Corporate Director for Children's Services, officers and health professionals. Two further sessions are planned for the Autumn of this year;
  - SYA meetings – our members consider a number of matters affecting young people (outlined in the SYA Forward Plan) and provide the Council, service providers and decision-makers with a youth perspective when planning and developing services ;
  - Stockton Youth Assembly is working with the Council to ensure that there are as many ways as possible for young people to be able to make their views known. The most recent one is through the use of social media using "#Alex" on Twitter and Facebook.
5. The feedback and information from each of the above meetings, events and activities have been used to identify the priorities in the attached manifesto which has been produced in order to continue our journey, build on the progress that has already been made. The manifesto documents the consultation journey with the borough's young people and the resulting priorities for positive change that have been identified through it.
6. To transform these priorities from aspirations into reality will require the ongoing combined efforts and commitment of politicians, decision makers and service providers, as well as the young people themselves

## CONCLUSION

7. Cabinet is asked to acknowledge the Council's progress in transforming its arrangements for listening to the voices of local young people and engaging them as partners in decision making.
8. Cabinet is asked to support further progress, specifically during the current SYA cycle (i.e. up to February 2017), by encouraging each Directorate to consider which of the Youth Manifesto priorities (if any) they can contribute to achieving; and where relevant, arrange to be added to the Forward Plan of Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) to involve them in addressing the priority/ies.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

9. The community impact will be focused on the young people of the Borough aged 11- 19 years of age (up to 25 for those with special needs) to ensure they have a voice to influence decisions about issues that matter to them.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. To be met from existing budgets.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

## RISK ASSESSMENT

12. This (subject matter of report) is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

13. The work of the SYA and objectives set out in the Youth Manifesto support three of the four key policy principles of the Council Plan:
  - **Protecting those who are most vulnerable** – e.g. looked after children; young carers;
  - **Promoting equality of opportunity** – all young people across the Borough.
  - **Developing strong and healthy communities** – enabling and encouraging young people to actively contribute to improving their community.
14. They will also continue to contribute to several of the core aims within the Council Plan:
  - **Your Council ('Big Plans, bright future')** – young people helping to enhance and improve relevant service delivery so that it is high quality and customer focused (SBC website; # Answer Alex).
  - **Children and Young people ('Big Plans for the young people of our Borough')** – seeking to offer as many opportunities to help young people become the very best they can be, and to protect those in our care (e.g. career guidance; training/employment information).
  - **Health and Wellbeing ('Big plans for the health of our people')** – SYA gets involved in consultations, discussions and service reviews related to health (e.g. mental health; self-harm; drugs/alcohol support service; health Young Inspectors).
  - **Strong Communities ('Big Plans for helping our communities prosper')** – bringing young people together and creating an environment where they can get involved, have an equal say and feel empowered to make a difference (e.g. SYA meetings; Borough-wide Debate; Annual Conversation; Make your mark campaign).
  - **Arts, Culture and Leisure ('Big Plans for great experiences')** – promoting awareness and attendance of public events, use of leisure facilities; and taking part in consultations about them (e.g. SIRF; skate park; Sport and leisure programme for young people; cheaper bus travel).
  - **Safer Communities (Big Plans for keeping our communities safe)** – helping to allay young people's fear of crime and to help them feel safe and secure. Giving young people the opportunity to express their views about crime and anti-social behaviour (e.g. helping to adapt the 'Crime and Disorder Survey' to make it user –friendly for use in schools).

## CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

15. As you will see from the report both the Youth Assembly and the Youth Manifesto seek to ensure that all young people within the Borough (aged 11- 19 years of age; up to 25 for those with special needs) have the opportunity to express their views and influence decisions about issues that matter to them. This includes 'looked after' young people – one of the members of the SYA is in care.

## CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

16. SMT, Cabinet members and Chairs of Scrutiny Committees were involved at the outset of this process through their attendance at the Borough wide Debate event held on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The Leader and Cabinet Member for Children & Young People are also members of the Stockton Youth Assembly and have been fully apprised of the manifesto's development. The Cabinet Member for Children & Young People is also principally involved in the Council's Children and Young People's Partnership Annual Conversation events

**Name of Contact Officer:** Margaret Waggott  
**Post Title:** Asst. Director of Administration, Democratic & Electoral Services  
**Telephone No. 01642** 527064  
**Email Address:** [margaret.waggott@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.waggott@stockton.gov.uk)

**Education related?** Yes

**Background Papers:** Cabinet – 6 September 2012;

**Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:** N/A

**Property:** N/A