

# **Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date of meeting: 31 March 2022**



**Portfolio: Community and Regulatory Services (Councillor Aniket Patel)**

**Subject: Annual review of the work undertaken by Epping Forest Youth Council**

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## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives an annual progress report on the work undertaken by the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Team with the Epping Forest Youth Council.**

## **Report:**

Epping Forest Youth Council is a high-profile national award-winning Youth Council, comprising 25 young people, representing the 9 Epping Forest secondary schools. These young people represent the views of their peers and wider school communities. The current cohort will stand down on 12 April 2022. Member support has enabled the Youth Council to continue creating youth friendly projects to engage and benefit our communities.

On Thursday 31 March the Youth Council will make a presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee highlighting their excellent work over the past year. They have been meeting weekly on Zoom or more recently in person with the Young Persons Officer, building on their training programme, taking part in consultations, learning from guest speakers and creating new projects.

The Youth Council will refer to the key areas of work undertaken in their final year.

1. MiLife C19 – The 10-week schools virtual programme has given young people what they need to build their emotional resilience through a range of teacher led workshops. The website <https://www.rbf.org.uk/milife> incorporates bespoke resources directly relating to Covid 19 and its impact on young people, addressing good mental health and wellbeing. This also includes a variety of physical and cultural activities.
2. Youth Conference – On 19 November 2021 the Epping Forest Youth Council hosted its bi-annual Youth Conference. The full day event saw 67 young people from five of the district's secondary schools attend the Civic Offices for a day focussed on climate change issues and youth democracy.
3. Youth Elections – The Youth Councillors have been instrumental in recruiting potential candidates in their schools for the Youth Elections in February / March 2022.
4. The Youth Activities Map 2022 – extensive research has been carried out to update the map to include new groups and recreational green spaces and nature reserves.

**Reason for decision:**

It was agreed that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would receive an annual update on the work undertaken by the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Team with Epping Forest Youth Council.

**Options considered and rejected:** N/A

**Consultation undertaken:**

A range of consultations are taken with the Youth Councillors about current issues which inform future projects that will benefit young people in our communities, engaging, educating and signposting them to ensure the environment they live in is a healthier, happier place. These will be included in the presentation.

**Resource implications:** There have been no increases in budget required from the council to date. The Youth Council receives core funding for day to day support and running costs.

**Legal and Governance Implications:** N/A

**Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:** N/A

**Background Papers:** N/A

**Impact Assessments:** Equality Impact Assessment completed

**Risk Management:** N/A

**Equality:** Equality Impact Assessment completed