

**Request by Member for Scrutiny Review  
2014/15 Work Programme**



Please complete the form below to request consideration of your issue by the  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<b>Proposers Name:</b> Cllr Helen Kane	<b>Date of Request</b> 19.01.15
<b>Supporting Councillors (if any):</b> Cllr. David Stallan Cllr. Gary Waller	
<b>Summary of Issue you wish to be scrutinised:</b>  <p>As part of the budget savings exercise, officers were asked to provide a report to a future meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee on the most effective use of the budget relating to youth engagement from 2016/17.</p> <p>The budget under this heading is £54,000 per annum and includes the staffing costs of one full-time and one part-time member of staff (including on-costs) and the operating costs of the District's Youth Council. The operating costs of £12,000 per annum, include travel and training expenses and delivery of specific projects that are identified through the annual Youth Conference, which is a consultation event involving young people representing every secondary school in Epping Forest District.</p> <p>Rather than simply ask officers to report back on their proposals from 2016/17, and in view of the important role that young people play in our community and the valuable contribution they can make, I would like to propose that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee establish a Task and Finish Panel to undertake a review of potential options for the best use of the existing budgets for youth engagement for the future.</p> <p>Members that attended the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be aware of the articulate and insightful presentation from representatives of the District's Youth Council on the work they have undertaken since being elected in April 2014. Therefore, if the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is in agreement with this proposal, in addition to the appointed councillors, I would suggest that two representatives from the District's Youth Council are invited to become co-opted members of the Task and Finish Panel (which would have to be without voting rights – although it is recognised that the panel will not have any executive decision making powers), in order to provide the Panel with the views of young people on what they feel is best use of a relatively small financial resource.</p>	
<b>q7</b>	
<b>Public Interest Justification:</b>	

Young people are an important part of our community, and some will be the community leaders of tomorrow. The Council's work on youth engagement is incredibly important, and we therefore need to ensure that the small resource allocated to this role is being utilised in the most cost-effective way.

**Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:**

Youth engagement is seen as a priority for a range of public and voluntary sector agencies, including the Police (and Crime Commissioner), Essex County Council, Health Services and range of voluntary organisations. This is not only to ensure that young people have access to core services that are provided, but to enable them to be involved in the design and delivery of these.

It also provides the opportunity for agencies to build positive relationships with young people and promote good health and wellbeing, in order to help reduce or prevent issues of risky behaviours, such as alcohol and drug abuse, poor sexual health and anti-social behaviour.

The Council therefore needs to engage with its young people who are at the core, and are the future of its' local communities, to ensure community cohesion, wellbeing and longer term sustainability.

**Council Performance in this area (if known: Red, Amber, Green):**

The main method of youth engagement undertaken by the Council is currently through the Epping Forest Youth Council and, less formally, through the many outreach activity programmes provided by Community Services.

In comparison to neighbouring authorities and others across Essex, the related performance of these initiatives to engage young people is likely to be Green – Amber, with these services having a good reputation across Essex.

**Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?)**

There is currently a Task and Finish Panel underway to consider Grant Aid Policy – however, this proposal covers a completely different area

**Office Use:**

**Pick score:**

**Considered By OSCC:**