

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 23rd February 2016

Subject: Youth Engagement Task & Finish Panel

Responsible Officer: Julie Chandler (01992 564214)

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry (01992 564246)



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives an update on the outcomes of the Youth Engagement Task & Finish Review undertaken from April to September 2015

Report:

The recommendations from the Youth Engagement Task and Finish Review Panel were presented to Cabinet in December 2015, by the Chair of the Panel, Councillor Stephen Murray, supported by Councillors Gagan Mohindra and Aniket Patel who were also on the review panel.

Each of the recommendations, which are shown in bold as below, were discussed in detail by the Cabinet and the decisions made, are shown in normal text, as below;

i) That the Council retains and continues to support and develop the Youth Council in terms of wider youth engagement;

The Cabinet supported this recommendation in light of the excellent role that the Youth Council plays in engagement with their peer group, which extends across their respective school community and the local area where they live.

ii) That the Youth Council be afforded the opportunity to present a report/update twice a year to all Members of Council through a suitable meeting;

This recommendation was agreed and the potential for the Youth Council to report to Full Council was discussed.

iii) That the Youth Council acts as a consultee for stakeholder presentations at Overview and Scrutiny Committees;

The Cabinet agreed that it would be helpful for representatives from the Youth Council could be invited to meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committee when guest speakers are present, or there is a relevant agenda item.

iv) That the current operational budget for the Youth Council be maintained at £12,000 per annum;

This recommendation was agreed.

v) That Cabinet considers a request for Continuing Services Budget (CSB) Growth of £8,000 per annum, for an enabling fund that the Youth Council can access for projects to be agreed by the Neighbourhoods & Communities Select

Committee.

Following detailed discussion, it was agreed that a District Development Fund growth bid of £8,000 be agreed, for an enabling fund that the Youth Council can access for projects, subject to acquiring formal approval from the Cabinet.

- vi) **That the Council pursues the devolvement of the budget and responsibilities for Youth Provision from Essex County Council to the District Council; and,**

This recommendation was denied.

- vii) **That Cabinet considers a request for Continuing Services Budget (CSB) Growth of £25,000 per annum, for targeted work by Community Services and Safety and not at the detriment of the current service.**

This recommendation was denied.

The recommendations from the review were considered by Finance and Performance Management Cabinet on 21st January and agreed for presentation to Full Council for a final decision.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee members are asked to note, that, due the uncertain future of the Youth Council prior to completion of the Task and Finish Review and subsequent presentation to Cabinet & Council, it has not been possible to carry out Elections for the new cohort of Youth Councillors in the first part of this year as would be normal practice. Therefore, Youth Council Elections will be held in local secondary schools during the Autumn 2016 and the current members of the Youth Council will have the opportunity to extend their participation in Youth Council activities during this time.

Reason for decision:

This report is an update on the position of the Youth Council and Youth Engagement

Options considered and rejected:

As indicated, the Review Panel presented two recommendations that were not agreed by Cabinet Committee as above.

Resource implications: Cabinet Committee has agreed for a DDF growth bid for £8,000 to enable the Youth Council to develop a range of new projects, subject to agreement by the Committee.

Legal and Governance Implications: None.

Safer, Cleaner Greener Implications: None

Consultation Undertaken: A range of consultation was undertaken during the review, with officers, statutory and voluntary sector partners and local secondary schools.

Background Papers: Reports and minutes from Youth Engagement Task and Finish Review panel Meetings.

Impact Assessments: Not applicable at this stage of the reporting process

Risk Management: N/a

Equality: No implications at this stage.