

# **Report to Overview & Scrutiny Select Committee**

**Date of meeting: 16 July 2020**



**Portfolio: Housing & Communities**

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

**Responsible Officer: Vnessa Gayton (01992 564559)**

**Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470)**

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## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**(1) That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee receives an annual progress presentation covering the work undertaken by the Epping Forest Youth Council, supported by the Council's Community, Culture and Wellbeing service.**

## **Report:**

Member support has enabled the Epping Forest Youth Council to go from strength to strength since its formation in 2008. Since its inception, the Youth Council has been involved in the design and implementation of a plethora of projects to support the needs and aspiration of local young people. The Epping Forest Youth Council is a high-profile, national award-winning Youth Council. It currently comprises of 27 young people, representing 9 Epping Forest secondary schools with 3 independent members. These young people represent the views of their peers and wider school communities.

The election process was halted in secondary schools due to school closures as part of Covid-19 lockdown, however, the current cohort of Youth Councillors was still successfully elected in April for a two-year term of office.

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July Youth Councillors will deliver a presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee highlighting their excellent work over the past 12-month period. Five of the 2018-20 Youth Councillors re-stood for election and, with the 22 new members, commenced their term of office in April 2020. Youth Councillors have been meeting weekly via Zoom with the Council's Young Persons Officer and are currently still undertaking an intensive online induction training programme.

The Youth Council will refer to the completion of a number of projects over the past 12-month period, their training to date and their plans for the future.

## **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 £12,000 per annum for day to day support and running costs including training, travel expenses and uniforms. In December 2018 the Cabinet agreed a DDF sum of £15,000 to be allocated to Epping Forest Youth Council, to enable them to deliver a range of targeted projects for young people in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

**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