



## ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
20th September 2018  
Agenda Item 8

Key Decision No

Ward(s) Affected: All

### **Youth Engagement Update for Joint Overview and Scrutiny**

#### **Report by the Director for Communities**

#### **Executive Summary**

##### **1. Purpose**

This report provides an update to JOSC following the recommendations agreed by JSC in January this year.

##### **2. Recommendations**

###### **2.1 Recommendation One**

That the Committee note the progress made on developing the Councils' approach to youth engagement.

##### **3.0 Context**

**3.1** At its meeting on 20 October 2016, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) discussed youth engagement across the Adur and Worthing communities with a number of local stakeholders.

**3.2** The recommendations from the Committee were then considered by the Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) on 10 January 2017 and it was agreed to

establish a JOSC Working Group, assisted by the Adur and Worthing Executive Members for Wellbeing, to review the good work undertaken in the area of youth engagement.

**3.3** The findings of this working group were presented to Joint Strategic Committee on 10th October 2017 and then a further update was provided to Joint Strategic Committee in January 2018 and that Committee approved the following recommendations:

- That the Councils support and encourage the Youth Councils to work with Community Works, with a view to enabling funding for their Support Worker to continue after the current one year funding ends;
- That the Councils review their web pages and social media interaction with young people;
- That there should be Young People Member Champions;
- That the Councils work with the Youth Councils and Young People Member Champions, to identify key policies that are being reviewed that the Youth Councils will be consulted on;
- That Council Officers work with the Youth Council and others to review their priorities and assess whether these are viable.

#### **4.0 Update on youth engagement**

**4.1** The Youth Council have been introduced to Community Works, our local Community and Voluntary Sector support organisation, with a view to support for future funding opportunities.

**4.2** Officers have met with young people in order to review the Councils' web pages and social media interaction. In Worthing High, this was done as part of the OneGoodFriend project that is being developed to support young people's emotional wellbeing. Members of the Schools Council gave feedback in a group discussion session. At the Self-Managed Learning College, this was done in a workshop style session with young people directly reviewing the website through the session. Feedback was given on the style of content, colours and how easy it was to search for items/issues. This has been passed onto the Communications Team for consideration and implementation.

**4.3** Young People Member Champions is outstanding and still need to be identified. Once these have been nominated they will work with the Youth Councils to identify policies that the Youth Councils will be consulted on.

- 4.4** Council Officers will continue to work with the Youth Council and others to review their priorities and assess whether they are viable.

## **5.0 Engagement and Communication**

- 5.1** The youth engagement review was lead by a JOSC working group that involved Council officers, Members from both Adur and Worthing and the Youth Council.
- 5.2** Young people from both Worthing High and the Self-Managed Learning College have been consulted with as part of the review of the Councils' website from a young person's perspective.
- 5.3** Internal and external officer consultation will be required to progress the Youth Councils' priorities.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

- 6.1** Officer time has been used to date on progressing the recommendations outlined in the JSC report in January 2018.
- 6.2** The financial implications for progressing recommendation four of the January 2018 JSC report need to be worked through with the Youth Councils should these progress.
- 6.3** The work involved in terms of youth engagement does have financial implications for the Councils in relation to ongoing officer time and also regarding the work the Councils commission through Community Works.

## **7.0 Legal Implications**

- 7.1** Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.
- 7.2** Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

- 7.3** Section 1 of The Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 provides that every statutory provision conferring or imposing a function on a local authority confers the powers on the local authority to enter into a contract with another person for the provision or making available of assets or services, or both (whether or not together with goods) for the purposes of, or in connection with, the discharge of the function by the local authority.
- 7.4** Alternatively s1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation.

### **Background Papers**

Youth Engagement Review, JSC October 2017  
<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.147277.en.pdf>

Response to JOSC Youth Engagement Report, JSC January 2018  
<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.147277.en.pdf>

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## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

Should young people be encouraged to use local businesses, shops and particularly local venues, this will have an economic benefit to the area.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

The recommendations will impact on young people and have the potential to improve the lives of young people. If young people feel involved in policy setting they will feel more a part of building their future

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

Young people have told us that they want to be involved in their community and have a say in issues that affect them. At the moment they tell us that their views are being overlooked by the Councils. Consulting with Young People on relevant policies will involve them in issues that will impact their futures

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **3. Environmental**

Should young people use more local businesses, shops and venues, this, in turn, will have a positive environmental benefit as they will be using less transport.

### **4. Governance**

Matter considered and no issues identified.