



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Key Decision No

Ward(s) Affected: N/A

Response to the JOSC Youth Engagement Report

Report by the Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

This report provides

- A further follow up report to address the issues/recommendations and any financial/legal considerations for each recommendation contained in the Youth Engagement Scrutiny Report
- Information to assist the Executive in providing a formal response to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Executive's response to JOSC includes:

2.1 Recommendation One

To 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.

2.2 Recommendation Two

The Councils to review their Web Pages and social media interaction with young people.

2.3 Recommendation Three

That there should be Young People Member Champions, with Members discussing and agreeing who should take on this role and thereafter communicating this to the Youth Councils.

2.3 Recommendation Four

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.

2.4 Recommendation Five

That Council Officers work with the Youth Council and others to review their priorities and assess whether these are be viable.

3.0 Context

- 3.1** This Committee considered a report at its October meeting which requested that Joint Strategic Committee receive and note the findings and recommendations of the Youth Engagement Working Group set up by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2** It was proposed that a further follow up report be presented to this Committee on the issues / recommendations and any financial / legal considerations for each recommendation. This would then enable the Committee to provide a formal response from the Executive to the Scrutiny proposals.
- 3.3** The recommendations from JOSOC are outlined below, with an assessment of them alongside the legal and financial implications.

4.0 Assessment of the Recommendations

- 4.1** **That the proposed agreement between Sussex Clubs for Young People and Adur and Worthing Councils to provide some much needed funding for the provision of a support worker for the Adur & Worthing Youth Councils for 12 months be welcomed but that the Councils, working with Community Works and other partners to support the development of funding and governance of the Youth Council, be encouraged to continue to source other funding streams that will enable the continuation of the Support Worker post beyond the 12 month period, possibly encouraging local businesses to sponsor the Youth Council; his is because**

Why? - Because there is a need to provide support for the Youth Council for the good of the young people and to work with the *young people involved*.

- 4.2** Adur and Worthing Councils have worked with Sussex Clubs for Young People to identify funding and recruit an officer to support the Youth Council.

This officer started on 20th November 2017. The funding for this post is for one year and now the Youth Council will be encouraged to work with Community Works to obtain funding to sustain this post beyond the year, either by external funding or local business sponsorship.

4.3 **Financial implication:** Adur and Worthing Councils have contributed £3,500 and Sussex Clubs for Young People have contributed £5,000 to fund the Support Worker for the Youth Council for a year. No further funding is available from the Councils to continue this support and therefore the Youth Councils are advised to work with Community Works for source future funding.

4.4 **That the Councils help to develop and improve formal channel of communication for the young people wishing to access information for local services provided by the Councils and others for young people. It is suggested that this could be implemented by improving the young people's pages on the Councils' website and also identifying an appropriate point of contact within the Councils for young people to go to when they require assistance which will help improve the support provided for young people. It is also considered that there is a need for an improved social media dashboard/portal.**

Why? - Because young people have told us that the website pages are ineffective and do not provide useful information, or meet their needs.

4.5 It is acknowledged that young people use the Internet and Social Media as a main form of communication. The Councils communication team is planning a review of the website content and approach in 2018 and If agreed, it should be possible to involve young people in some aspect of this process.

4.6 With regards to a point of contact for young people to go to when they require Assistance it is unclear specifically what this relates to. If it is regarding the website and digital comms we now have a much more active social media offer and individuals are communicating directly with our customer services Team digitally, to resolve issues across a number of teams. The JOSOC Working Group also discussed the possibility of identifying member champions who could perhaps perform the role of bridge into a number of Council departments.

4.7 **Financial Implication:** Budget would need to be identified for staff time to facilitate the website consultation process as well as resource to change the web pages if outside the current scope being developed.

4.8 **That the Councils commit to consult with the Youth Councils on any new policies or amendments to existing policies which are being considered**

that might impact on young people and when reports are being produced that they include a section on the implications for young people.

Why? - Because 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 there is a general view from young people that their views are being overlooked by the Councils.

4.9 As young people are the future of our Communities, we could identify that all our policies impacting our communities would have an impact on them. If they were to be consulted on every policy this could be quite a commitment. What we propose is that we work with the Youth Councils to agree which type of policies they would like to be consulted on and give them the opportunity to comment on these within an agreed timescale.

4.10 **Financial Implications:** Officer time

4.11 **That the Systems Leadership work approach being undertaken by Adur and Worthing Councils be welcomed as an effective way to engage with young people to find out more about what they need from their Communities.**

Why? - Because this approach is a good way to engage with young people and find out what they need to thrive.

4.12 This approach has been welcomed by both organisations and young people themselves to identify what young people need to thrive. Officers from across a number of organisations are meeting in January to agree a way forward to continue to develop this piece of work and ensure that it is embedded in how we engage with young people.

4.13 **Financial Implication:** To be confirmed when further actions are agreed.

4.14 **That the findings from the Youth Council Focus Groups/surveys be noted and the Working Group would encourage relevant Council Officers/Service areas to undertake further work with the Youth Council to see if any of their requests can be introduced by the Councils or other stakeholders/businesses.**

Why? - Because the Working Group considers that the views of young people are important and young people should be listened to. It may not be possible to introduce everything that is being requested but further discussions by the Councils and others may lead to long term improvements for young people services.

4.15 The Youth Councils' Focus Groups/surveys outlined 4 priorities for them to address. These included:

- ***To increase the number of young people attending cinema/theatre in Worthing;***

Their survey suggested that only a small proportion of young people regularly use Worthing based cinema/theatre as they feel the cost is too high - they would use them if the cost was lower.

- ***To provide alternative, additional outdoor activity equipment throughout the locality to engage those young people not catered for and to expand the range of social space activities for young people to utilise;***

Through their consultation young people have said that they would use more age appropriate activity equipment if it was provided. More lighting, bins, seating and sheltered seating were identified as needed by young people using parks.

- ***To expand on young people's use of local businesses, encouraging them to see Worthing as an alternative shopping destination to other bigger towns. To encourage businesses to embrace the young people as future consumers of their products and to bridge the gap between child concessions and those already in paid employment.***

Access to a concession card that could include theatre admission was identified as a way to support this.

4.16 Meetings could be arranged with officers both within the Councils as well as linking the Youth Council to our contacts in partner organisations to help to investigate these priorities. All of these will have financial implications and will need to be looked at individually to assess if they are viable to take forward.

4.17 **Financial implications:** Officer time to progress and potential capital expenditure. External partner costs are also implied, if agreements can be reached.

5.0 Engagement and Communication

5.1 As part of this process, a JOSOC Working Group was implemented. This group included Council Officers, Members from both Adur and Worthing and Youth Council reps.

5.2 The Youth Council also consulted with young people through Focus Groups and a Survey to get feedback on their priorities. The detail of this is found in the background paper.

5.3 Internal and external engagement with Officers would be required to consider if the Youth Councils' priorities can be progressed.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 To deliver the Recommendations, significant officer time largely from Communication and Wellbeing areas would be required. This would be in addition to existing commitments and currently is unfunded. Officers would clearly also wish to work with WSCC as they have the statutory responsibility for youth provision.
- 6.2 There would be specific financial implications for Recommendation Four. This would need to be worked through with the Youth Councils.

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

[2017.10.10 - JSC - Youth Engagement Review](#)

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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.