

Committee: Full Council

Agenda Item

Date: 8 December 2016

11iv

Title: Youth Engagement Report

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(Drugs and Alcohol), 01799 510559

Item for decision:
yes

Summary

1. The Youth Engagement Working Group was formed to consider how the Council can better engage with young people in Uttlesford. This report proposes setting up a Youth Council in two phases and seeks approval for the first phase.

Recommendations

2. That the Council forms an Uttlesford Youth Council on the basis outlined in the report with a view to considering more detailed recommendations for its operation in three months' time.

Financial Implications

3. Finance for the 3 month exploratory period has been guaranteed by the Youth Initiatives working group which at its meeting of Thursday 24 November unanimously voted to endorse the formation of an Uttlesford Youth Council and allocated a sum of £2,000 to cover costs during the exploratory period.

Officer time to support this project will be approximately 1 day a week.

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Extensive consultation with local schools and other groups
Community Safety	Safe working practices will be adopted
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	See comments under community safety
Human Rights/Legal	These aspects will be addressed in final

Implications	proposals for how the Youth Council would work.
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	All wards
Workforce/Workplace	Some impact on one officer

Situation

- 6 Councillors visited three secondary schools, Saffron Walden County High, Helena Romanes School Dunmow and Joyce Frankland Academy Newport [Further meetings are planned at The Walden School, Forest Hall School Stansted and Felsted School].
- 7 Meetings were organised with school council members at each venue through the teacher responsible. In total approximately 50 young people from all year groups [ages 12 – 17] attended the meetings and took part in question and answer sessions with the councillors. Additionally councillors also met with candidates for the Essex Youth Assembly [Election to be held week beginning 21st November] and held discussions with youth workers from Essex Youth Service. The Youth Engagement Working Group has concluded, through information gathered at the meetings and feedback received from young people, that there is a clear desire for further and more formal engagement between the young people of the school councils and the District Council.
- 8 The Youth Engagement Working Group proposes that the Council forms an Uttlesford Youth Council, Initially made up of 2 or 3 representatives from each of the secondary schools and up to 5 young people not in school the Youth Council will work with the Youth Engagement Working Group to develop a structure both for how the Youth Council will function and how it will interface with the Council. After a period of 3 months a further more detailed recommendation will be submitted.
- 9 Issues to be considered moving forward include:

Safeguarding – Adopting safe working practice

Age - What is the most appropriate age range for youth councillors?

Non Political - Youth Council must be non political, public resources cannot be used to support or promote political views.

Selection – How will the young people be selected or [ideally] elected to the council? How can those young people not in school be included?

Mechanics – How will it be structured? How often will it meet? Where will the meetings take place? How can social media and technology be integrated into the process? How will it interface with town and parish councils?

How will it work with the Young Essex Assembly?

Back Office –What will be the required level of officer support?

Finance – What will be the ongoing cost?

Terms of Reference – Must have a clear remit and terms of engagement with council.

Partnership – Work in partnership with Essex Youth Service and the Uttlesford Youth Initiatives working group.

Risk Analysis

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Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
1 that young people are not given the opportunity to participate	1 Unlikely given the extensive consultation undertaken	1 That the voice of young people is not heard	1 Engaging with young people in the district and providing the support needed to maintain the youth council

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.