

Committee: Full Council

Agenda Item

Date: 4 April 2017

8 (v)

Title: Pilot Youth Council Report

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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. A pilot Youth Council has been established and this report seeks approval for the proposal moving forward.

Recommendations

2. That the Council supports the Pilot 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 next 3 month period will be 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 from Community Partnerships and secretarial support from Democratic Services for approximately 8 meetings a year.

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 local youth groups
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A

Health and Safety	Safe working practices will be adopted
Human Rights/Legal Implications	These aspects will be addressed in final proposals for how the Youth Council would work.
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	All wards
Workforce/Workplace	Some impact on two officers

Situation

- 6 Councillors visited all secondary schools [Saffron Walden County High, Helena Romanes School Dunmow, Joyce Frankland Academy Newport, The Walden School, Forest Hall School Stansted] except Felsted School.
- 7 Meetings and repeat meetings were organised and each school was asked to put forward 4 to 8 [dependant on the size of the school] representatives. These representatives have formed the Pilot Uttlesford Youth Council.
- 8 The Pilot Uttlesford Youth Council had its first meeting on Saturday 18th March. 20 young people were in attendance representing 4 of the 5 secondary schools. The Pilot Youth Council elected a Chair and Vice Chair and had short debates around school busses, transport the environment and housing. They briefly discussed the structure of the Youth Council and resolved that it should meet 6 to 8 times a year in line with full council and would be non-political. They also resolved to request secretarial support from Democratic Services for these meetings. After setting up a transport working group to address the issue of school busses it was decided that the Pilot Youth Council would be in place for a period of three months during which the issues to be considered moving forward will be resolved. After this Pilot phase of 3 months a further more detailed recommendation will be submitted.
- 9 Issues to be considered moving forward include:

Safeguarding – Adopting safe working practice for meetings and transport.

Selection / Mandate – How will the young people be selected or [ideally] elected to the council? What is the most appropriate age range for youth councillors? How can those young people not in school be included?

Mechanics – How will it be structured? 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?

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 Ongoing engagement with young people in the district and provision of 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.