

Committee: Council **Date:**
Title: Youth Council **Tuesday, 8 October**
Report Author: John Starr, Community Development Officer
Author: jstarr@uttlesford.gov.uk
Tel: 01799 510559

Summary

1. Uttlesford Youth Council was formally recognised by Full Council in October 2017 and has been running since then. A review of progress identified a number of ways in which improvements could be made and a proposal was taken to Full Council on 30 July 2019. This report is written in response to the following resolution passed at that meeting:

This Council resolves that it will engage with and integrate the Youth Council more closely with the Council and agrees the following principles:

1. *That the Youth Council has a permanent non-voting representative at Full Council meetings in order to participate in debates.*
2. *That the Youth Council Members are supported by District Council Members at Youth Council meetings.*
3. *That District Council Members are identified to support Youth Council Members in their engagement with local schools.*
4. *That sufficient officer time is allocated to the Youth Council to enable it to meet its objectives.*

The Council requests officers to report back to the next Council meeting on implementing these principles.

Recommendations

2. Council to note that:
 - a. the Youth Council has accepted the invitation to have a permanent non-voting representative at Full Council meetings in order to participate in debates. The youth council will select a representative for each meeting taking into account content of the agenda.
 - b. the Youth Council has agreed to a standing invitation for District Council members to attend Youth Council meetings and participate subject to the terms and conditions of the Youth Council constitution.
 - c. the Youth Council has accepted the offer for nominated District Council members to support and assist the Youth Council in their engagement with local schools and the wider community to recruit members to the Youth Council and promote the democratic process.

- d. sufficient officer time will be allocated to the Youth Council to enable it to meet its objectives within existing resources.

Financial Implications

- 3. Any increase in the day to day support for the Youth Council can be contained from within existing agreed resources in the current financial year.
- 4. Consideration will need to be given as to whether a growth bid is required for additional budget for 2020/21 and beyond to further support the Youth Council.

Background Papers

- 5. 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:
 - Current Uttlesford Youth Council constitution

Impact

6.

Communication/Consultation	Young people will be supported to participate and engage in a range of activities that enable their voice to be heard
Community Safety	Transport will be provided to address rural isolation
Equalities	Safe working practices will be adopted. (lone working, safeguarding)
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	The Youth Initiatives Working Group has committed annual ongoing funding
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	N/A
Workforce/Workplace	Communities Team

Situation

- 7. The Youth Council is currently comprised of twenty one representatives from four Uttlesford secondary schools (Saffron Walden County High, Helena Romanes School Dunmow, Joyce Frankland Academy Newport, Forest Hall School Stansted) and two representatives who live in Uttlesford but attend school out of the locality. Felsted School is allocated up to five seats but as yet has had no representation.

8. The Youth Council meets bi-monthly and working groups have been established to enable young people to meet and cover topic areas of work between meetings. Currently working groups are covering Communications, Mental Health, Housing, Constitution, Policing and Ecology and the Environment.
9. The Youth Council has a constitution ([appended here](#)) outlining its methodology and terms of engagement. This is currently amended and under review waiting to be taken back to Full Council for approval.
10. At their meeting on 10 September 2019 members of the Youth Council discussed the four principles of the resolution passed at Full Council on 30 July 2019.
11. It was proposed and passed unanimously that the principles have full Youth Council support.
12. It was agreed that a member of the Youth Council will be nominated to attend full Council in order to participate in debates. It may not necessarily be the same Youth Council member attending each meeting as it will depend on the content of the agenda and availability of members.
13. After operating for two years the Youth Council has recognised that it values the support and advice of District Council members at Youth Council meetings and would also like to work more closely with them in the community to create better links with schools and parish / town councils both to help recruit new youth councillors and to raise interest and awareness in the democratic process in general. This will help to improve the representation and diversity of the Youth Council and help fill the seats with active and participating Youth Councillors from across Uttlesford.
14. As a way forward it was agreed that the Youth Council will contact interested councillors to work with them to promote greater participation by young people in the democratic process.

Risk Analysis

15.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
1 The Youth Council is not supported by officers or members	1 Resource is in place to support the Youth Council	2 The Youth Council will cease to continue	1 Implement the 4 principles as outlined above

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