



Policy and Resources Committee - 11 October 2010

East Northamptonshire Youth Council

Summary

Members are asked to consider and approve proposals for consulting on the development of a new model for involving and engaging with young people in East Northamptonshire

Attachment(s)

None

1 Background

- 1.1 East Northamptonshire has had a Youth Council since 2001. It currently comprises of pupils nominated by the School Councils of the five secondary schools in the district: Prince William School, Rushden Community College, Huxlow Science College, Manor School and Sports College and Ferrers Specialist Arts College.
- 1.2 Each school elects one member for each of years 10, 11 and 12 and one extra member from either year 9 or 13, so four in total. Councillor Wendy Brackenbury is the Council's appointed Youth Champion and part of the role is to support the Youth Council. The Youth Council has a constitution and meets to 4 or 5 times a year between October and April.
- 1.3 Currently the Youth Council aims to give young people the opportunity:
1. To assess funding proposals for services for children and young people through the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) managed by Northamptonshire County Council. This comprises £45,000 revenue and £45,000 capital funding each year.
 2. To improve the local environment or community for young people. East Northamptonshire Council makes available an annual grant scheme of £5,000 to the Youth Council to spend on youth projects and events in the District.
 3. To influence the delivery and design of public services, especially those provided by East Northamptonshire Council. The Council will consult the Youth Council on its various plans and encourage other service providers to consult with them too.
 4. To understand how local government works, where the money comes from and how decisions are made in a democratic environment.
- 1.4 The YOF money referred to above will cease to be available to Youth Councils from 1 April 2011.

2 Current issues

- 2.1 It is recognised that better ways need to be found for involving and engaging young people in issues and initiatives that could affect their lives, both now and in the future. This will give a stronger focus to the Youth Council aims (2, 3 and 4) referred to in 1.3 above.

- 2.2 In the past Youth Councillors have expressed their interest to be more involved with topical issues such as environment and community projects. The Youth Council has on occasions been seen as just a decision making body for YOF and having more of a civic role rather than an influencing role. A lot of opportunity is therefore being missed for involving young people in the things that are relevant to them.
- 2.3 The elections for the Youth Council take place in the schools. This has often increased the chances of those more confident pupils in seeking election and restricting those less confident young people, who can offer valuable contributions, from getting involved.

3 Model for more effective engagement of young people

- 3.1 It is proposed to develop a better model for involving young people in the issues that affect their lives. Young people are able to offer new ideas for how organisations might develop initiatives or projects and how we can deliver better and more efficient services in the future.
- 3.2 The emphasis would switch to working more closer with schools, youth clubs and other relevant organisations to engage young people in specific projects across the district. An example here would be the forthcoming workshop with pupils at Manor School in Raunds for the Master Plan development. Furthermore our Area Based Initiatives are developing strong links directly with local schools and youth groups to promote opportunity for young people to make a positive contribution to their local community.
- 3.3 Great opportunity also exists for making better use of technology. The use of Facebook and other social networking sites, SMS texting and websites will increase our capacity and that of our partners to improve our methods and results. This could see more of a Youth Forum arrangement emerging, that is more about making available the best ways for young people to be involved in local initiatives and developments.

4 Consulting schools, local youth groups and others

- 4.1 It is proposed to use this forthcoming Youth Council year (2010/11) to consult with schools, local youth groups and the organisations supporting them in developing a new model.
- 4.2 A further report will be brought back to this Committee meeting on 17 January 2011, detailing the new model and seeking approval for its implementation.
- 4.3 The following timetable will be followed for developing the new model: -

Detail	Timeframe
First meeting of the EN Youth Council in 2010/11	18 October 2010
Consult with schools, youth groups and other organisations on new proposals	October – December 2010
Present final proposals to EN Youth Council	3 December 2010
Report to Policy & Resources Committee seeking approval for new model	17 January 2011

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

1. Agree to the proposed consultation with schools, youth groups and relevant organisations in East Northamptonshire for developing the future model involving young people.
2. Receive a report seeking approval for the new model at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 17 January 2011.

Implications:	
Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy	
Good Quality of Life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Reputation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money	<input type="checkbox"/> High Quality Service Delivery <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Partnership Working	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong Community Leadership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of our Customers and Communities <input type="checkbox"/>
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval <input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget <input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date <input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation <input type="checkbox"/>
Risk Management	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - residual risk score - <input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	There are no additional staffing implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
Equalities and Human Rights	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	Power: Local Government Act 2000
	Other considerations:
Background Papers: None	
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Date: 17 September 2010	
CFO	MO
	CX

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