

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Overview & Scrutiny Committee Cabinet	Date:	31st October 2022 11 January 2023
Subject:	Task and Finish Group – Engagement with Young People Report		
Report Of:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Democratic and Electoral Services Officer Community Wellbeing Officer Policy and Development Officer		
	Email:	lauren.richards@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 39-6735
		isobel.edwards@gloucester.gov.uk	39-6298
		liam.moran@gloucester.gov.uk	39-6049
Appendices:	1. Task and Finish Group – Engagement with Young People Final Report		
	2. Additional Consultation Data		

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Members of the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group on Engagement with Young People.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the findings and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group and make any amendments or further recommendations to Cabinet.

2.2 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be addressed and implemented at the earliest opportunity, and those recommendations requiring more detailed consideration be the subject of a further report to Cabinet as necessary.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

3.1 The Task and Finish Group was established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2022 following a notice of motion approved by Council. The focus of the enquiry was to establish whether Gloucester City Council services currently engage with young people and if so, how. The Task and Finish Group concluded their enquiry in September 2022 and have formulated several recommendations as to how the council might be able to improve how it engages

with young people across various services, as well as the authority as a whole. To date, the Task and Finish Group has held 8 meetings, and the scope of their enquiry, summary of its findings and their recommendations are set out in Appendix 1

4.0 Social Value Considerations

- 4.1 There are particular voluntary and community groups in some wards that have a strong youth focus, but there are definite gaps across the city. Often, young people find it difficult to express their views and opinions because they don't know who to approach and who is able to take action on their concerns. There is also a feeling that they are never asked in the first place.
- 4.2 There is not currently enough capacity within the community wellbeing team to address these issues so a coordinated response in the form of a dedicated youth officer would lead to an understanding of where the gaps are and how they can be filled. Fortunately, the community wellbeing team have been able to acquire external funding to pay for a fixed term post for 18 months. This person will be responsible for engaging with young people across the city, working alongside VCS partners who have a youth focus as well as supporting city council departments to improve their involvement and create opportunities for the voices of younger residents to be heard.
- 4.3 Within the city, there are some fantastic organisations such as 'Young Gloucestershire' and the 'Gloucester Community Building Collective' who have a lot of experience and knowledge of working with young people. They will be key partners in supporting the youth engagement role as they can provide a considerable amount of expertise and awareness of current youth issues. In addition to city wide organisations, there are several youth groups that are run in community centres and places of worship who have considerable understanding of what matters to the young people who live in their area.
- 4.4 A dedicated focus on youth engagement will hopefully bring about; an increase in young voters, more interest from young people in their local area on how they can improve it so it better suits their needs an increase in young volunteers and more involvement in youth panels such as the climate change action group.

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 N/A

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 N/A

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 The recommendations stem from the Overview and Scrutiny Task and finish Group and it is the discretion of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods to make a final decision on these recommendations.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 N/A

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 N/A

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 None.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

11.1 N/A

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

12.1 The Task and Finish Group is seeking to widen participation of young people aged between 13 and 25 years old. If the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group are accepted and implemented, they should help younger residents to effectively and easily engage with the council.

12.2 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact; therefore a full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

13.1 N/A

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

14.1 N/A

Background Documents: Non

