

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	11 January 2023
Subject:	Response to the Recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on Engaging with Young People		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	1. Task and Finish Group – Engagement with Young People Final Report		
	2. Additional Consultation Data		
	3. Cabinet Response to Recommendations		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish group on the City Council's engagement with young people, and to provide a formal Cabinet response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, as set out in Appendices 1 and 3 to this report, be addressed and implemented at the earliest opportunity, and that 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 the City Council. The focus of the enquiry was to establish whether the 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 City 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 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 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group have requested an update on the implementation of any recommendations agreed by Cabinet approximately 6 months after they have been formally accepted.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 N/A

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

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 Under s9FE of the Local Government Act 2000 Cabinet is required to consider the Task and Finish Group report and provide a response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee setting out what action it proposes to take.
- 10.2 The City Council needs to ensure that it complies with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) when formally consulting with young people, as there are additional provisions intended to enhance the protection of personal data relating to children and young people. In UK law, only young people aged 13 years old and older can lawfully provide their own consent for the purpose of processing their personal data.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of 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 in the City Council's decisions. 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 City Council.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 N/A

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 N/A

Background Documents: None