

**Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Engagement with Young People**

**Progress Update**

Recommendation	Decision	Status	Comment / Update
<b>Council-wide Recommendations</b>			
It is recommended that all council consultations include a question relating to age, in order to establish the age range of residents taking part.	<b>Accepted</b>	In Progress	<p>A cross-departmental team was created in July 2023 to meet bi-monthly to review consultations/engagement across the Council and consolidate learning from data and other feedback.</p> <p>Gloucester Culture Trust and Gloucester Community Building Collective have also been invited to attend.</p>
It is recommended that a review of the City Council’s communications strategy takes place, specifically looking at how the Council could better engage with young people through the use of new social media channels.	<b>Accepted</b>	On hold	<p>The City Council’s Communications Strategy has recently been reviewed and updated following approval from the council’s Senior Management Team. It currently recommends the continued use of the City Council’s accounts on three social media channels – Facebook, Twitter and Linked In. Any further</p>

			<p>expansion of the council’s social media presence to platforms such as Tik Tok and Snapchat would need significant resource to run and maintain engagement. It is likely that to maximise engagement, the council would need to produce 3-4 videos a week and ideally to post content daily. In addition, the use of Tik Tok would need to be carefully considered due to questions around information security. A consultation around how the council communicates with young people is being carried out by the Youth Engagement Lead Officer and the results will be reviewed in due course.</p>
<p>It is recommended that the Task and Finish Group reconvene in 6 months’ time for a meeting with the new Youth Engagement Lead Officer to discuss progress on implementing their recommendations.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Task and Finish Group on Engagement with Young People met with the Youth Engagement Lead Officer on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, and received an interim update on the implementation of their recommendations ahead of the progress update being provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>

<p>It is recommended that City Council reports pertaining to the Planning and Climate Change service areas include an additional section outlining whether and how the council has engaged with young people in respect of the proposed decision.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The first draft of the Climate Change Action Plan is currently being reviewed by the City Council’s Climate Change Member Working Group. Consultation and engagement with young people will be undertaken when the document is in the second draft stage.</p> <p>In relation to planning, the new Statement of Community Involvement is due to be considered by Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and by full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023. This document sets out a range of methods as to how the council should engage with communities, including young people.</p>
<p><b>Service Specific Recommendations</b></p>			
<p><b>Planning (Development)</b></p>			
<p>It is recommended that the Planning Service consult directly with young people on major planning applications and regeneration schemes within the city through local schools and further education institutions</p>	<p><b>Partially Accepted</b></p> <p>The City Council receives many major planning applications each year; consulting young people on all would be onerous and probably yield little of</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>The Youth Engagement Lead Officer is working with the planning team, colleagues at County Council level – including Child Friendly Gloucestershire - and VCS partners to explore a variety of ways to involve young people, shaped by them and what matters to them.</p>

	<p>value. However, a new 'Youth Engagement Lead' Officer is currently being recruited in partnership with Young Gloucestershire. Officers will explore if and how this role could effectively work with young people and engage in more significant proposals.</p> <p>However, it is important to note that planning legislation dictates how local authorities should engage the public in planning applications. Therefore, it would be necessary to exercise caution and equity in publicising planning applications.</p> <p>More widely, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing, and Officers, have and continue to engage with course leaders and students at</p>		<p>Early engagement is particularly important because the formal nature of the later stages are not easy to read and/or get feedback.</p> <p>Our approach to engagement/consultation will be based on a partnership model developed with young people which makes clear expectations and responsibilities when involving them in our decision making.</p> <p>This is likely to involve a city-wide action group for young people 16+ based on a paid peer research/education/campaign model linked to Youth Violence Prevention as well as voluntary models which give young people a variety of ways to share their thoughts and opinions, particularly young people that we don't hear from. It is hoped that this will be ready for December 2023.</p>
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	the University of Gloucestershire.		
<p>It is recommended that the Planning Service implement innovative engagement tools, such as Digital QR codes on statutory planning notices and 'Dot-Voting', during formal consultation periods hosted in local communities.</p>	<p><b>Partially Accepted</b></p> <p>The Council has an adopted Statement of Community Involvement (2015), which sets out different engagement methods that can be used for local plans, and the approach required and encouraged for more significant/major planning applications.</p> <p>For local plan consultations, it provides a menu of options that can be tailored to meet the scope of the consultation. This is currently being updated and a new version will be published in 2023, and includes engagement with schools, colleges and universities.</p>	In Progress	<p>The City Council has now completed its public consultation on the draft Statement of Community involvement. The new draft sets out an updated range of methods as to how the council should engage with communities, including how we engage with young people. The draft Statement of Community Involvement will be considered by Council for adoption.</p>

	<p>In addition to this, Officers will work with the Communities Team to design consultations that engage as effectively as possible with the community, including young people.</p> <p>Officers will explore whether a QR code can be added to statutory planning notices that take the user to Public Access.</p> <p>The answer provided to Recommendation 5 is also relevant.</p>		
<b>Planning (Policy and Open Spaces)</b>			
<p>It is recommended that when the council's Playing Pitch Strategy is updated, consideration is given to extending membership of the delivery group to include groups promoting physical play and activities as well as sports bodies.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>The updated Playing Pitch Strategy is currently in very early stages; however when appropriate, Officers will consider extending the membership of the Playing Pitch delivery group as recommended by the Task and Finish Group.</p>

<p>It is recommended that when the council's Open Space Strategy is updated, consideration is given to extending any public consultations to grassroots community organisations.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>On hold.</p>	<p>The City Council's current Open Spaces Strategy was adopted in 2021 and will be in place until 2026. As such, the council is not yet pursuing an update to the strategy however this recommendation will be revisited when Officers look to update the strategy in the future.</p>
<p><b>Climate Change</b></p>			
<p>It is recommended that the Council uses the development of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as an opportunity to increase engagement with young people on local climate change challenges and solutions.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>The Youth Engagement Lead Officer is meeting with Creative Sustainability who are leading on the youth engagement of the county plan at the end of August. She will work with the council's Climate Change and Decarbonisation Lead on sharing the consultation through emerging relationships with schools and community groups.</p>
<p><b>Democracy</b></p>			
<p>It is recommended that a document or information leaflet be created on a yearly basis and circulated to local schools. This should be in a format suitable for reading by young people,</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>This document has been completed and will be circulated to local schools for the Autumn 2023 school term.</p>

<p>featuring a range of updates on Council activity, presented in an interactive way such as through the inclusion of wordsearches, competitions and/or other child-friendly activities. This could also support PSHE lessons, with the document being used to encourage children to engage and discuss their thoughts and opinions on what is going on within the Council. However, we are conscious of the resource available within the council and would want to ensure this was as effective as possible to justify the commitment of resource.</p>			
<p>It is recommended that a guide suitable for young people on how Gloucester City Council works is developed and published online as an educational resource – explaining in easy-to-understand terms how the Council operates, its remit within the city, and how young people can get involved. This could be used by schools to support with lessons, as well as on</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>This document is in the final draft stages and will shortly be available on the City Council website. The document is in factsheet form and will be a downloadable resource which Members can use to supplement upcoming school, or community visits if they so wish.</p>



<p>an individual basis by young people and their families.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendation for Councillors</b></p>			
<p>It is recommended that City Councillors engage with schools to a greater extent and invite them on a yearly basis for a visit to, and tour of, the Council Chamber and Mayor's parlour. This could include interactive activities such as mock debates, along with a focus on the history of the city, such as by encompassing a visit to Gloucester Museum.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>This option remains open to Members. North Warehouse room bookings can be made via the Members' intranet or by contacting the Council's Business Support team.</p>