

Youth Council

Cabinet	17 November 2022
Report Author	Penny Button, Director of Safer Neighbourhoods
Portfolio Holder	Councillor George Kup, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Youth Engagement
Status	For Information
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	All Wards

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide members with information regarding the Thanet Youth Council (TYC). The report will provide information on the purpose of the TYC, its remit and the scope of the TYC.

Recommendation(s):

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

Corporate Implications

There are no corporate implications arising from this report.

Financial and Value for Money

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

Legal

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report

Risk Management

Identify	Evaluate	Control and Mitigate
The Youth Council may change due to education and work commitments of the young people.	Due to Young people having to join the youth council the intake may be lower some years than others.	Promote Youth Council amongst youth clubs, different organised youth groups and schools.

Change in Government	If current government is replaced this vision of the Youth Council may change	Liaise and promote youth council to cabinet members and local councillors
Build strong relations with youth groups and schools	If relationships are not built this will limit the contact with young people to promote the Youth Council	Liaise with the youth groups and schools regularly
We need to build a culture in the Youth Council of being young person led to ensure good participation	If the Youth Council is not young person led this will affect youth participation	Checks and balances within Youth Council meetings ensuring the youth Council has its own identity

Corporate

Growth - Encouraging young people to take responsibility and interest in their local area. Giving young people a voice and enabling them to make their views heard in the decision-making process. Deliver a council that is financially strong to discharge its services and invest in the growth of the district. Having the young people involved will encourage investment and growth in the future of both the district and the residents within Thanet.

Environment - Having a clean and well maintained environment remains important to us. We will be promoting within the Youth Council a shared responsibility approach to delivering a clear and accessible living environment. With TDC calling for a Climate Emergency in 2019 we would like the Youth Council to provide and consider climate change responsibilities and identify how they can work with the Council to create a better environment.

Communities - Effective partnership working. We currently have a diverse range of young people signed up to the Youth Council. This will enable the Youth Council to provide a wide range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, etc.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

This report relates to the following aim of the equality duty: -

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

The council encourages diversity and equality to all members of the Youth Council and the issues they discuss will be with this in mind. The Council will ensure those from a variety of cultures and backgrounds are given equal support so they can promote community cohesion and equality. The Youth Council will support events in Thanet ensuring that they contribute towards The Council's equality duties, which are; Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Corporate Priorities

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Supporting open communications*
- *Supporting communities and neighbourhoods*

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 Local youth councils are forums that represent the views of young people at a local level. Run by young people for young people, they give young people a voice and enable them to make their views heard in the decision-making process. Providing our young people the chance to discuss relevant issues, engage with decision makers and contribute to improving the lives of young people within Thanet's communities.

<https://www.byc.org.uk/uk/local-youth-council-network>

1.2 The objectives of the TYC include;

- Explore options to establish either: TYC / Youth Committee
- To be youth led
- Seek to collaborate with others to make positive change happen
- Give young people a voice by representing and communicating the views and needs of all young people
- Enable young people to make their views heard in the decision-making process.
- Giving young people the opportunity to discuss relevant issues
- Link young people in with decision makers to contribute their thoughts/ideas/experiences to inform the decision makers and contribute to improving lives of young people within Thanet communities
- Have a voice in informing policy

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 The TYC is currently in the process of being set up by TDC Community Safety Team (CST) with the support of Kent County Council (KCC) youth services. Numerous local diverse youth groups have been approached and spoken to inviting young people, who are interested in their local community and want to make a difference, to attend the first TYC meeting on 30 November 2022 at TDC offices in Margate. It is estimated between 15-20 young people will attend the first meeting and it is hoped that we will retain these young people by encouraging them to lead and take responsibility for the planning of the meetings moving forward.

Multi agency working between TDC and Stagecoach means that all young people can be offered a Stagecoach day rider ticket free of charge to support their travel to and from TYC meetings. The TYC will start with a budget of £1000 and will be looking and discussing ways of supporting the local youth / projects and seeking ways to access further funding where applicable.

We are aware the TYC will be a fluid group of young people which may change from time to time due to education and work commitments of the young people involved. Continued promotion of the TYC will be supported by the young people themselves as well as attendance from TDC CST and KCC youth services to various youth groups to discuss TYC as well as KCC youth services. A promotional TYC video has been completed to support not only the promotion of the TYC but the recruitment of young people to the TYC. We will be looking to add and build on the video library as the TYC grows and evolves.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 *Agree to the implementation of the Youth Council*
- 3.2 *Agree not to implement the Youth Council*
- 3.3 *Propose any alternative to the Youth Council*

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Annex List

Annex 1: [Project Plan](#)

Annex 2: [Risk Assessment](#)

Corporate Consultation

Finance:

Legal: