

Report to: Council

Report Ref: C1907
Meeting Date: 3rd June 2019
Agenda Item: 13
Prepared By: Town Clerk



Subject: Establishing a Youth Council

1.0 BACKGROUND

As part of his election speech the Town Mayor announced an aspiration to establish a Knutsford Youth Council to provide a forum for Knutsford's younger residents to engage in their community and have a stronger voice. There are currently around 620 youth councils across the UK, operating at a range of levels from parishes and towns to boroughs and counties. Locally there are youth councils in Holmes Chapel and Congleton.

The structure and formality of youth councils varies from place to place. The experience of those overseeing youth councils has highlighted that those given responsibility for their own budget are more successful than those without such responsibility. They rely on building a profile in the community, having access to premises, resources and funding and utilising the enthusiasm of their members.

Youth councils undertake a range of activities from fundraising for their own projects, leading campaigns on issues important to them and representing young people's views to other organisations in the area. They most commonly comprise members aged 11-18, i.e. those in secondary and further education and present a range of benefits in skills and personal development to those participating.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council establishes a working group to explore the establishment of a Knutsford Youth Council as per the terms of reference in Annex A.



ANNEX A: DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The Working Group will consist of 3 councillors, determined by Council and the Town Clerk in an advisory capacity.

Membership to be determined by the parent body at its first meeting at start of a new Mayoral year. The working group may invite members of the public to attend meetings in an advisory capacity on an ad-hoc usually temporary basis.

2. At its first meeting of the civic year the working group members shall:
 - a. Review these terms of reference / complete the skeleton Terms of Reference for approval as appropriate.
 - b. Appoint an elected member as Lead Member who should ensure the entire working group's members are kept informed and involved with progress and act as the primary reporting channel back to the parent body.
3. In line with the task set by the Council, the purpose and remit of the working group is to research and develop proposals for a Knutsford Youth Council.
4. The group does not have delegated powers to make decisions on behalf of the Town Council nor should exceed its purpose and remit (above) without the parent body's sanction to a change to this Terms of Reference
5. The group reports to the Full Council
6. The group shall provide timely reports to the parent body in the following manner:
 - a. Recommendations report submitted to Council.
7. Meetings of the working group are not usually but may be public meetings.



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