

**Report to:** Council

**Report Ref:** C1926  
**Meeting Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
**Agenda Item:** 12  
**Prepared By:** Town Clerk



**Subject:** Knutsford and District Youth Council

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## 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.

In June, it was resolved that Cllr Malloy investigate the establishment of a youth council and report back to the Council. Cllr Malloy has since held a number of meetings with the headteachers of the Knutsford schools and has prepared the below proposal.

## 2.0 PROPOSED YOUTH COUNCIL

The proposed youth council will be styled the *Knutsford and District Youth Council* and it will comprise representatives from each of the state primary schools in Knutsford (Bexton, Egerton, St Vincent's and Manor Park), as well as Mobberley, High Legh and Lower Peover primary schools and the Knutsford Academy. Members will be appointed with one from each school in years 5 and 6, and two from year 7 at the Knutsford Academy, for a total of 16 members aged 10-12.

It will be operated by the schools, meeting three times per year and will produce a report to each next Town Council meeting.



The Town Council's role will be to monitor, providing guidance and to consider any proposals which arise and require approval. It will not be part of the council and it is not proposed that there be any ongoing Town Council funding at this stage, however it could propose actions to the Town Council to fund. The schools will be responsible for its operation, and the Town Council will appoint a representative as a link.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council supports the establishment of a *Knutsford and District Youth Council* as outlined and appoints a representative as the link.



LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
QUALITY GOLD