

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A YOUNG MAYOR**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To propose the principle of establishing an elected Young Mayor in North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 To seek an agreement for a Young Mayor to be elected alongside a UK Youth Parliament member and in line with the inauguration of the North Lincolnshire Mayor in 2012.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Nationally, there are eleven Young Mayor's representing young people in their local area. The scheme was pioneered in Middlesbrough in 2002 and the most established Young Mayor programme has been running in Lewisham for 8 years.
- 2.2 A Young Mayor is a young person aged between 11 and 25 years old who is appointed by local young people to represent them locally. Generally, the role of a Young Mayor is to:
  - Act as a role model and first point of call for all young people across the area
  - Support young people in their right to have their views heard and provide a process for this locally
  - Consult with young people to ascertain their views and identify any issues they are facing
  - Represent the views of young people in local decision making and democratic forums whilst recognising the need to balance the views and representations of all citizens in these forums
  - Highlight and champion the positive contributions young people make to their communities and promote cross generational working and mutual respect
  - Identify and lead initiatives and projects on behalf of children and young people that are consistent with published priorities of the Council i.e. the development of a young carers card.
  - Get involved in the preparation of bids to draw down funding to develop projects.

- Help to improve communication channels with young people across North Lincolnshire i.e. through the development of a young people's website or webpages on an established website
- To help organise and attend events that are relevant to young people's issues and encourage other young people to attend and contribute
- Raise awareness of the Youth Council (and other means of young voice) to children and young people across the area
- Raise awareness of the Youth Council (and other means of young voice) to agencies and decision makers as a way of identifying issues affecting young people locally

2.3 North Lincolnshire currently has a UK Youth Parliament member and this is someone who is appointed by local young people to represent their views at a regional and national level. Both the Young Mayor and the UK Youth Parliament member are affiliated with the Youth Council and are mutually supportive ensuring that local young voice is represented locally, regionally and nationally.

2.4 As with the UK Youth Parliament member, as part of the Young Mayor programme, there would be an underpinning plan to co-ordinate the election process. This would involve cross council working to steer the programme; designing candidate packs and promotional materials; raising awareness through schools and other established routes; launching candidate packs; delivering candidate training; organising and preparing young people for a manifesto event; organising ballot boxes for young people to vote and co-ordinating the election event and inauguration.

2.5 Candidates for the UK Youth Parliament member and the Young Mayor would be supported through a comprehensive training programme including nationally funded Parliamentary Outreach. Other aspects of the training, led by Legal and Democratic Services, include how to plan a campaign, how to deal with the media and the public, what their responsibilities would be and how they would secure support throughout their campaign.

2.6 Post election, the cross council 'team' would be required to support the Young Mayor as well as the UK Youth Parliament member throughout their term to enable them to fulfil their role.

### 3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### OPTION ONE

3.1 That a Young Mayor be established within North Lincolnshire to complement the role of the UK Youth Parliament member and add value to the North Lincolnshire Youth Council.

#### OPTION TWO

3.4 That a Young Mayor is not established in North Lincolnshire.

## 4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

### OPTION 1

- 4.1 The establishment of a Young Mayor will strengthen young voice across North Lincolnshire and add value to established youth involvement networks i.e. the Youth Council, School Councils and underpinning consultation and participation groups. The establishment of a Young Mayor creates more opportunities for local young voice to be represented in decision making and democratic processes and encourages active citizenship.
- 4.2 Actively supporting the development of a Young Mayor will ensure we fulfil our commitment to hearing and acting on the voice of children and young people and will help to ensure that children and young people remain at the centre of all that we do.
- 4.3 Having both a UK Youth Parliament member and a Young Mayor would ensure that the views of local young people about local issues are actively sought by young people and that they are fed into the national arena at which there is an opportunity to influence national policy. There will be some areas of overlap and the two young people would offer each other mutual support.

### OPTION TWO

- 4.4 If a Young Mayor was not established, there would be a missed opportunity to add value to the established youth involvement networks i.e. the Youth Council, School Councils and underpinning consultation and participation groups.
- 4.5 If the resource is just directed to our UK Youth Parliament member then the benefits will be seen more at a regional and national level. There would be fewer opportunities for local young person's voice to inform the local democratic and decision making forums of the key issues from a young person's perspective.

## 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 The development of a Young Mayor and supporting the elected Young Mayor will require a support infrastructure which will be met from existing resources.

## 6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 The importance of young people's voice (including vulnerable and hard to reach groups), participation and perceptions is referenced in a range of Ofsted and HMIP Inspection criteria.
- 6.2 The establishment of a Young Mayor would assist the Council to fulfil its statutory duties including the Equality Act 2010 and would show the Cabinet's commitment to the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and in particular Article 12.

- 6.3 An integrated impact assessment has been undertaken in relation to this report and any issues identified have been addressed.

## 7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The development of the initial proposals for the establishment of a Young Mayor have been done in collaboration with the North Lincolnshire Youth Council. Members of the Youth Council have agreed that the establishment of a Young Mayor will be considered by Cabinet and that they would be involved in the development of any further details.
- 7.2 Arrangements are in place for the proposals for the establishment of a Young Mayor to feature in the Great Debate on 11 November 2011 and initial arrangements are in place for consulting with more young people across the area.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That Cabinet agrees to the principle of establishing a Young Mayor in North Lincolnshire alongside a UK Youth Parliament member, to be elected at the same time as the inauguration of the North Lincolnshire Mayor.
- 8.3 That Cabinet agrees that further details required to establish a Young Mayor will be developed in collaboration with the Youth Council.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None**