

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Full Council

12 January 2023

Youth Cabinet/Youth Parliament

Recommendation

The Council resolve to:

- **Working alongside NCC to promote the work of their Youth Cabinet and Youth Parliament by reaching out to other groups of young people**
- **Create another means by which young people can put forward their views and concerns**
- **Use the Council's website to reflect the work and services we provide for the youth of the town and the work being carried out by NCC**

Ward

All

Risk Management

There is no budget or resource provision to carry out this function. Safeguarding issues would also need to be addressed if another option were to be implemented.

Objective

To provide leadership and be a voice for the community in all matters which impact on the town and its community by involving the youth of the Town.

Report

This item has been put forward for consideration following a Councillor's request, and then discussed briefly at the October 2022 Council meeting. Although no decision was made, it was unanimously agreed that Officers should seek advice from NCC regarding how they support their own youth council and address any safeguarding issues.

In the main, this area of service is covered by County and Metropolitan Councils where they can obtain the views of the young people across more noticeably, nationally felt issues, through the UK Youth Parliament "Make your Mark" or more local issues appertaining to the vast range of services the higher tier Councils deliver.

Parish Councils tend not to have this form of Youth service because of the limited functions they provide and more often than not, the same issues will be addressed to and covered by e.g., their County Council who have the power to make decisions in any areas of concern. The introduction at a Parish level could be seen as a duplication which carries resource and financial costs that can be significant.

Officers have held discussions with the Youth Service at NCC who administer the Youth Cabinet and Youth Parliament across the County and the possible options available to this Council.

NCC obtain the views of those children who attend the various schools throughout the County, who are part of the Parliament, on predominantly nationally based concerns, e.g., Health and Wellbeing – access to mental health. They also seek any other views that they may have, and then these views are put to the decision makers at NCC as to what they can do about it.

NCC are of the view that BTC could make a valuable contribution in supporting the youths of the town by forming closer liaisons with community centres etc. as there does appear to be a shortfall in the collection of views from a number of groups e.g. Community Centres, sports clubs – swimming, rugby, football, cadets, scouts etc. This could be an area that the Council could become more involved in, by asking the organisers of the various groups to promote that young people consider and put forward their areas of concern. It is most likely that these referrals would be directed to NCC but there may be some that the Council can consider, where we have direct responsibility for. These referrals could be in digital form.

Involving the youth in any appropriate consultation is also seen as a key element, and we have done this of late in the original skate park proposal as well as involving Silx in subsequent discussions.

Officers have also contacted neighbouring Councils, and none operate a system like NCC, although they do promote on their individual websites how they involve the young people in their area. We could promote the work we do better by highlighting it in a specific part of the site.

Examples of this would include:

- Provision of play/muga facilities
- Community and Councillors grants
- Payments to NCC to provide programmes
- The work of the Youth Cabinet and Youth Parliament at NCC and how important this is

AGENDA ITEM 8

- How the views of all can be forwarded to either NCC or BTC for further consideration

Malcolm Wilkinson
Deputy Town Clerk

22 December 2022