

DRAFT DOCUMENT

Terms of reference District/Borough youth forums

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To define the working agreement between District/Borough councils and Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Service.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 A Youth Council represents the views of young people in the district, allowing them to actively participate in the democratic process, and liaise with District Council officers when drafting new policies and procedures. This supports and encourages the involvement and understanding of democracy for local young people, giving them a voice in future issues that may affect them. A Youth Council can formally comment on council procedures and services, helping to shape the future for residents and tenants, and actively contribute towards the Council's strategic objectives such as, the development of the Community plan. Nottinghamshire county councils' youth service facilitates youth councils (youth forums) and these groups are chaired by Members of youth parliament for the area. The chair will attend the young people's board where they will give updates on their youth forum, they will also report back to the youth forum on the activities of the young people's board. This is in line with Nottinghamshire County councils' youth service participation strategy.
- 2.2 Youth Council's that have been successfully established by other Local Authorities as a means of gaining representative views of young people in an area. There are several Youth Councils across the country that are currently assisting in the following service areas:

- Democratic services
- Finance
- Environmental Health
- Planning
- Community and Culture
- Housing
- Media and Communications
- Licensing
- Street scene

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the District/Borough council works alongside the established Youth Council with the following considerations for delivery:
- 3.2 The District/Borough and County Council would work in partnership to deliver the Youth Council within district, optimising outputs through collaborative working and the sharing of resources and local knowledge. Both Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Service and the

District/Borough will continue to recruit young people through the local Youth Centres and Secondary Schools and other networks as an existing and committed programme within the area. The Youth Council recruitment process will be ongoing and any young person living within the district will be able to attend aged 10 – 19 or 25 if they have a disability or are care leavers.

- 3.3 A youth forum is made up representatives from Youth Centres within the district, young people within the community and additional representative welcome from local school councils. To encourage a fair demographic representation across the district, the Youth Council would work with local secondary schools to target a variety of local young people.
- 3.4 Youth Council members would be responsible for setting the Youth Council agenda with additional support and guidance from the Youth Service and local council officers. Meetings would be delivered in a formal manner but offering an environment that encourages young people to interact and engage as much as possible. The Youth Council would be able to invite 'non-voting members' to participate in their meetings as either advisors or guests, as and when deemed appropriate
- 3.5 A hybrid approach to delivering the meetings would be adopted, this would be based on availability of venues and voted on by members were appropriate.

3.6

- The Youth Council will seek to communicate and liaise between, and where appropriate advise and support existing and new youth organisations within the district
- The Youth Council will work towards the improvement of the image, status, and welfare of young people within the district
- The Youth Council will seek to represent and communicate the views and needs of all young people including comments on the implementation of facilities for young people within the district to any relevant statutory, maintained or voluntary body.
- The Youth Council will, where applicable, be involved in the organisation of events for young people including those with differing cultural and religious backgrounds and those with special or different needs.
- The Youth Council will act as advisors to the District/Borough Council and other agencies on issues affecting young people and their concerns.

4.0 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 The Youth Service would continue to work with local schools and Youth Centres to encourage a variety of young people within the district to represent the Youth Council and share their

views. The Council and Youth Service will ensure that there are no negative equality implications associated with the delivery of Youth Council meetings.

5.0 Financial Implications

Resources will be arranged locally between the relevant council and Nottinghamshire County Council youth service dependant on capacity and need.