

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PEOPLE) TO CABINET ON 10 JULY 2019

PROPOSAL FOR A YOUNG MAYOR OF BARNSELY: SHADOWING ARRANGEMENTS (2019/20)

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet's approval for the proposed appointment of a Young Mayor to represent the young people of the Borough and subsequent arrangements for the Young Mayor to 'shadow' the Mayor of Barnsley as part of the latter's civic duties.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Cabinet gives approval for the appointment of a Young Mayor for Barnsley and the development of arrangements for the Young Mayor to shadow the Mayor of Barnsley as part of mayoral civic duties, during 2019/20.**

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 In Barnsley, young people's democratic engagement is coordinated and supported through the Youth Voice and Participation Team who are part of the Local Authority's Targeted Youth Support Service. This Service employs a range of professionally qualified participation posts with a specific remit to support young people to participate and engage in co-production activities through meaningful voice and influence activity. Paramount to this activity is the requirement to work within structures that are safe and supported and which safeguard and protect young people, working within the auspices of Barnsley Youth Council to ensure their successful involvement.
- 3.2 There are a number of routes and pathways through which the Service engages with young people who wish to be involved in influencing policies and decision making processes that affect them and their lives. Traditionally, Barnsley's young democratic body is channeled through the Youth Council. The Youth Council comprises of between 30-35 young people aged 11-19 years who are democratically elected through schools, colleges and education providers across the Borough. Members are appointed from educational establishments across the Borough to represent their peers and influence positive change. The structure is purposefully designed to replicate adult democratic structures and to provide an interface between the voice of young people and the Borough's formal decision making processes.
- 3.3 Barnsley Youth Council members are elected for a two year period after which, their term of office ceases and the recruitment process of electing a new cohort begins.

The current Youth Council model elects a chair and deputy chair. Further individual member responsibilities are apportioned through representation on local, regional and national sub committees, bodies and advisory groups. Throughout each term of election, two Youth Councillors are also elected by their peers within the cohort to represent Barnsley at the United Kingdom Youth Parliament, which is supported by the Regional Youth Work Unit. This ensures that Barnsley's young people have a voice on a national stage and that their priorities are used to champion and influence national campaigns and activities.

- 3.4 In March 2019, Barnsley's young people voted for a new Youth Council cohort who will serve their term in office from April 2019 until March 2021. A number of these young people have previously served as Youth Councillors and have been re-elected by constituents for a second or third term of office. This represents a timely opportunity to nominate or elect a Young Mayor from within the new cohort of Youth Councillors.

4.0 PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 In view of the significant contribution which young people have made to local democracy and civic life in the Borough, including through initiatives such as the National Takeover Challenge, our proposal is that for a Youth Councillor to be considered for the role of Young Mayor. The young person would have had to have been elected as a Youth Councillor for two consecutive terms of office; in essence, mirroring where possible arrangements for the adult mayor role.

- 4.2 The Council Governance Unit has been consulted on this proposal and their advice and guidance has been incorporated within this report so that both the young and adult mayor roles can work in synergy where possible. The Mayor of Barnsley adopts a ceremonial role and not an executive role as in other areas. This in itself would more closely support the remit to have a Young Mayor and to continue to have a Youth Council alongside it as the two would have distinct roles and responsibilities and avoid duplication. The role therefore would focus more on civic duties and responsibilities as opposed to delegated powers to represent young people's views.

4.3 Issues to Consider

- 4.4 The role of Young Mayor would be restricted to an older, young person to ensure that the young mayor was suitability 'qualified and experienced' in order to undertake the role, having stood for Youth Council on a number of occasions successfully. It is paramount to ensure that the Young Mayor is safeguarded and that the experience is positive. Therefore it is proposed that an older young person with previous experience of a similar role would be more suitable and more likely to achieve positive outcomes as a result.

- 4.5 Safeguarding protocols would need to underpin any arrangements. The role of the young person in the shadowing period would need to be clearly defined with specific attention to planning for their attendance at events and activities. It is proposed that the Young Mayor would have their own agreed 'theme' for their period in office which would be focused on advocating for and on behalf of the priorities of young people within the Borough in alignment with the role of the Adult Mayor. The Young Mayor would pick up specified dates within the civic calendar

and / or public events and would work closely alongside the Mayor of Barnsley and his / her staff. The serving Mayor of Barnsley and Chauffeur/Attendant would need to be DBS checked to meet safeguarding requirements.

- 4.6 There would be an expectation that the Young Mayor takes an active and participatory role alongside the Mayor of Barnsley and that they would be written into any programme / preparatory work where their attendance was expected, being recognised as the representative of young people within the Borough, in their public role and duties. The Participation Worker would work closely with the Mayor's Office to agree a shared programme of events and protocols in anticipation of joint attendance at civic events.
- 4.7 The Young Mayor would be provided with a gown to replicate that of the Adult Mayor within a set budget. As the programme would be in a pilot year during 2019/20, costs would be kept to a minimum until further consideration was given as to how the programme might develop and be sustained over a longer term. For security and safeguarding purposes, the Young Mayor would not be provided with a chain as this could increase the need and cost for security to protect them whilst in the role, as currently happens with the Adult Mayor and their attendant. At the end of their term as Mayor, the young person would be awarded with small gift and gesture from the Adult Mayor to recognise their efforts and contribution to the Borough on behalf of the young people they have represented. It is expected that these small ancillary costs would be minimal.
- 4.9 The Benefits of Having A Young Mayor Of Barnsley
- 4.10 There are many benefits to having a designated Young Mayor(s) Programme in Barnsley. If endorsed as a way forward, the 2019/20 shadowing arrangements will allow both young people and professionals to decide and co-produce the scale, shape and support required to implement a full programme in 2021.
- 4.11 A high-profile elected representative raises the profile of issues that matter to young people and influences local opinion-formers. A Young Mayor would ensure that young people's views are more vocal and public and that more positive community perceptions of young people are channelled across the Borough at high profile events and opportunities.
- 4.12. An individual would serve a one-year term as Young Mayor and their shadowing duties could include:
- Attendance at specific and identified civic receptions as part of an annual calendar of events and public speaking / advocacy for young people
 - Informing and advising the Mayor of Barnsley on issues relating to young people

In practice, this would allow for a Young Mayor to be appointed for each year of the two year Youth Council reign. The additional opportunity afforded through the programme would expand the progression opportunities for young people who have a specific interest in democracy and engagement as they develop their skills and experience, but would be ring-fenced to older young people who had served time as Youth Councillors previously.

- 4.13. A Young Mayor's scheme would enable a high profile and positive recognition to be given for young people across the Borough and would complement existing structures that facilitate young people's voice, engagement and democracy. Whilst there is a strategic and operational case for the scheme to be managed through the Targeted Youth Support Service there would be a requirement for additional capacity within the Service. An additional financial resource would need to be identified to support any proposed shadowing arrangements for the year 2019/20 (Please see Section 7.0 and Appendix 'A').
- 4.14 The proposed shadowing period, during 2019-2021 would allow the programme to develop a clear remit and purpose and to agree governance, boundaries and any issues in the run up to a full implementation by April 2021. The programme would require the support and buy in of the Council whose contribution would be to raise the profile of the role of Young Mayor and to demonstrate the role's impact within communities. The relationship between the Youth Council and other participation infrastructures would need to be clear and distinguished.
- 4.15 The incoming Youth Council cohort would be further consulted on the proposal for a Young Mayor and make recommendations as to how the two bodies can work together collaboratively to raise the positive profile of young people and their chosen campaigns across the Borough.

5.0 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

- 5.1 Cabinet could opt not to appoint a Young Mayor. In considering this option, Cabinet will need to give due regard to the fact that, during consultation, members of the Barnsley Youth Council indicated that they would welcome such an appointment and the additional recognition and awareness, which the Young Mayor could bring to issues which matter to young people.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE AND SERVICE USERS

- 6.1 The appointment of a Young Mayor for the Borough, together with the proposed shadowing arrangements, would be a non-political arrangement and the appointee will act as an impartial advocate and promoter of all young people's interests, wherever they may live in Barnsley.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The financial costs of supporting a Young Mayor role would be minimised and cost effective by adopting this model and taking a whole-Council approach. It is proposed that there would be an additional resource required to assist, develop and work alongside the young person. This could be accommodated by creating an additional 18.5 hour per week Grade 4 Youth Participation position, the costs of which would be between £13,003 – £14,075 including on costs. It is proposed that this funding commitment is considered in the next review of the council's medium term financial strategy (within the context of previously agreed efficiencies in 2020/21 and a funding gap in 2021/22).

8.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Subject to Cabinet's agreement for the proposal, the arrangements for supporting the Young Mayor programme would include the creation of a Youth Participation

Worker, please see Paragraph 7.1. There are no further employee implications emerging through the proposal.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no legal implications for the Council emerging through this proposal. A key consideration within the proposal will be that the appropriate steps will be taken to ensure the Young Mayor is safeguarded from the risk of any potential harm.

10.0 CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no implications for using the existing range of channels in accessing the Council's services or the onus towards Digital First and online transactions.

11.0 COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

11.1 If approved, the appointment of the Young Mayor and the proposed shadowing programme concerning his/her duties, will be promoted via the Council's communications networks.

12.0 CONSULTATIONS

12.1 The Barnsley Youth Council and the Local Authority's Senior Management Team have been consulted on the proposal within this report. The Youth Council has given unequivocal support for a Young Mayor of Barnsley. In addition, the Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire has formally given The Crown's approval to the proposal.

13.0 THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

13.1 The proposed Young Mayor programme will support the overall vision, strategic priorities and key outcomes of the refreshed Borough Children and Young People's Plan (2019-21) as follows:

Vision (3)

- Strong families and a strong Barnsley.
- Every child in a good school
- Success in learning and work.

Strategic Priorities (5 of 6)

- Keeping children and young people safe, including from emerging threats, including serious youth violence; county lines and criminal exploitation.
- Improving education, achievement and employability.
- Tackling child poverty and improving family life.
- Supporting all children, young people and families to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- Encouraging positive relationships and strengthening emotional health.

Outcomes (5)

- Being healthy.
- Staying safe.
- Obtaining the confidence to enjoy and achieve their potential and aspirations. .
- Being an active citizen.
- Earning a good living, including through improved life chances and social mobility.

14.0 PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

14.1 As a reflection of the Borough's evolving communities, the Young Mayor programme will include a commitment towards promoting equality, diversity and social inclusion and to help eliminate unlawful discrimination.

15.0 TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

15.1 Similarly, the Young Mayor will champion the cause of disadvantaged young people for whom opportunities are limited due to the impact of poverty and deprivation in order to help improve the range of outcomes and life chances, including through social mobility.

16.0 TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

16.1 Please see Paragraph 16.1.

17.0 REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

17.1 In particular, please see Paragraph 13.1.

18.0 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

18.1 There should be no risks to the Council in appointing a Youth Mayor, particularly since the Youth Mayor Programme will ensure that safeguarding considerations are paramount in the arrangements.

19.0 HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES

19.1 There are no implications for the health and safety of the public or employees and for the resilience of the Borough, emerging through compilation of this report.

20.0 COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

20.1 The proposal is compatible with the Articles and Protocols of the Convention.

21.0 CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

21.1 There are no implications for the local environment or for the conservation of biodiversity arising through the proposal.

22.0 GLOSSARY

22.1 None applicable.

23.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

23.1 Appendix 'A': Summary of financial implications.

24.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

24.1 If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

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