

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PEOPLE) TO CABINET

OUTCOMES OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT'S "MAKE YOUR MARK" BALLOT (2019)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update cabinet on the outcome of the November 2019 United Kingdom Youth Parliament Make Your Mark (MYM) ballot and campaign results.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Cabinet receives and promotes the priorities identified by young people through the National MYM ballot for the duration of the campaign period.**
- 2.2 **That Cabinet note the significance and scale of the MYM ballot and champion the issues identified by Barnsley's 11-18 year old population through their local area arrangements, consultation mechanisms and commissioning of services for young people.**

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 On the 8th November 2019 as part of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament House of Commons sitting, members of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) came together on a national stage to debate and decide on the most important issues for young people across the country, marking the end of what was Parliament Week.
- 3.2 The issues they debated were decided upon via the 'Make Your Mark' (MYM) public vote for 11-18 year olds across the United Kingdom based on a shortlist of topics voted on by Members of the Youth Parliament from their manifesto. This is the single largest and focused consultation exercise for young people aged 11-18 years both locally and nationally.
- 3.3 The annual UKYP MYM ballot is managed by the British Youth Council, a youth led charity which aims to empower young people across the UK to have a say and be heard.
- 3.3 The MYM ballot process has been facilitated in Barnsley since it was first introduced by the Targeted Youth Support Services' Youth Voice and Participation Team. The team are responsible for the election, coordination and support for Barnsley's democratically elected Youth Council and its youth voice infrastructure and the MYM ballot is an extension of their work at both a local, regional and national level,

providing an engagement mechanism for Barnsley's young people to have their voices and views heard.

The team facilitate the campaign at a local level, leveraging in the resource of the Youth Council and United Kingdom Youth Parliament members to encourage take up and participation in the voting process from all Barnsley young people within the eligible population age range. This year's campaign was undertaken in over eighteen different educational establishments including secondary schools, Barnsley College sites, Greenacre School, Springwell academy and a variety of other specialist and bespoke youth forums across the borough, utilising the resource of the existing youth voice infrastructure (see diagram). A total of 9,954 Barnsley young people participated in this year's ballot which represents approximately 47% of the eligible 11-18 year old population within the Borough.

3.4 Barnsley's overall contribution to the national ballot of over 800,000 votes has helped to determine the priority campaigns for young people for the year ahead. From the national voting process, young people voted for the following topics in priority order:

1. Protect the environment
2. Put an end to knife Crime
3. Mental Health

3.5 The top two of these national topics were chosen to be the winning campaigns overall and will be used to form the structure of Barnsley's Youth Council's workplan over the next twelve months. Throughout this period, the Youth Council will seek to use the views of young people to inform strategic developments in the relevant areas (ie; community safety and environmental awareness) and will utilise local partners and structures to channel their consultation channels and explore joint ways of working and collaboration with adult providers and stakeholders. Areas of success will be celebrated and recognized and shared on a national stage with other UKYP representatives.

3.6 As well as voting on a list of national pre- determined priorities as described above, a new feature in this year's MYM ballot was the opportunity for young people to vote on their own local priorities. Young people were asked to list in their own words, their three key local topics that should feature in the next twelve months work plan alongside the national priorities.

3.7 Upon consolidation of the results, the top three local issues identified by Barnsley young People only were as follows;

1. The effects of drug use in Communities
2. Young People's access to Transport (the offer)
3. Community Safety including ASB, Crime, gangs and policing

3.8 Barnsley Council's youth voice and participation infrastructure has a long standing and established relationship with schools and other education providers that is used to support the work of Barnsley's Youth Council in engaging with their peers to influence positive changes for young people. The service employs a range of youth voice and participation support worker posts who work alongside youth councillors

on a day to day basis to provide engagement opportunities both within schools and localities to build on and develop the MYM priorities for Barnsley as well as identifying any new or emerging generic themes for young people. The service acts as a conduit to connect Barnsley's Youth Councillors with adult stakeholders and decision makers to ensure that young people's views are fed into the relevant policy areas and any strategic forums where there is an alignment in thinking. A further benefit to young people's engagement is the positioning of youth voice and engagement activities within BMBC's Targeted Youth Support Service. The services and partners that comprise this area of work act as a further feeder mechanism to support young people opportunities for participation and engagement across the Borough and as part of existing locality arrangements.

- 3.9 This year's MYM priorities will also feature in the campaign work of Barnsley's recently elected Young Mayor, Alyssa Butler's. This new role and profile will give Barnsley young people the opportunity to be heard at a local, regional and national level through the championing and advocacy work undertaken by the Young Mayor working alongside the Youth Council and other more specific youth voice forums to ensure diversity in our representation and involvement of young people.

4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 The MYM consultation results are significant in terms of the scale of young people consulted with as part of the ballot process and this is the single biggest campaign priority led by young people for young people. The results from the MYM campaign, both local and national will be used to inform and influence new and emerging strategies certifying young people's interests in policy developments.

- 4.2 An example of this is the issue of Transport, which has been a recurring theme for young people throughout the last three MYM ballots and continues to feature significantly in the Youth Council's campaign work. This is a positive example of where Youth Council representatives have worked successfully alongside other regional youth voice groups and in collaboration with the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive Group and Sheffield City Region combined Youth Authority to develop a Regional Transport Charter for Children and Young People. The Youth Councils work in this area is ongoing as this remains an identified area of interest both locally and regionally.

4.3 Barnsley 2030

The ratified MYM results for 2019 have been used to inform Phase One of the development of 'Barnsley 2030' which culminates at the end of March 2020. In addition, the Youth Council have been supported to work alongside Thinkingplace to link the results of the MYM campaign with the key lines of enquiry leading the Barnsley 2030 consultation exercise. The Barnsley 2030 survey is being promoted across existing engagement channels within the youth voice infrastructure to ensure that young people are encouraged to participate and to supplement this, specific youth focus groups have been commissioned to inform the engagement stage. BMBC officers from the respective areas have made the strategic links to ensure certainty around young people's continued involvement in the evolution of the strategy.

- 4.4 The key issue identified by Barnsley young people in the current campaign combined from the UK and devolved vote was theme of 'Protecting the Environment'.
- 4.5 Climate change is something that threatens to seriously impact much of the world and there is growing public awareness and widespread concern on the impact of climate change. Barnsley Council recently declared a Climate Emergency to bring these issues to the forefront of everyone's attention and programmes such as Zero 40 and Zero 45 are helping the Council to achieve its ambition to reduce the impact of carbon emissions.
- 4.6 This is also linked to Town Spirit, the Council's new way of working better together and a key feature of this year's MYM campaign will be to link up the work of the Youth Council, the Young Mayor and their peer networks in promoting and encouraging young people's involvement and action in strategic campaigns and initiatives to raise the profile of BMBC's ambitions for performance in this area.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

Barnsley's Youth Voice network provides a single strategic infrastructure to support young people's engagement in democratic processes and is inclusive of other forums for vulnerable group people who may not otherwise be able to participate. The service works in partnership with other partners and stakeholders to ensure representation from across the borough and its localities.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

- 6.1 Campaign work will take place over the next twelve months around the key themes and priorities and should present an understanding and awareness of further opportunities for involving young people through the existing youth voice networks.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no employee implications as a result of this proposal.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no legal implications for the Council emerging through this proposal.

10. 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. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The national and local results of the MYM campaign have already been promoted through the Council's communication channels. The UKYP British Youth Council will continue to promote the two national campaigns and relevant successes over the next twelve months. The Regional and local campaigns will be promoted and supported by the Regional Youth Work Unit and Barnsley's Youth Voice and Participation Team.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The Barnsley Youth Council, People Directorate Management Team, Senior Management Team and the Lead Member for Children have been consulted on the proposal within this report. Other indirect consultation with the relevant stakeholders will take place to develop the campaign themes over the next twelve months.

13. THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 13.1 The MYM campaign results will support the overarching priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan, specifically around:

- People Achieving their potential
- Strong and resilient communities

The MYM campaign results will also support the overall vision, strategic priorities and key outcomes of the refreshed Borough Children and Young People's Plan (2019-21).

14. PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- 14.1 As a reflection of the Borough's evolving communities, the MYM priorities will include a commitment towards promoting equality, diversity and social inclusion and to help eliminate unlawful discrimination and to ensure that every young person has a right to have their voices heard.

15. TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

- 15.1 The MYM campaign champions the causes that matter the most to young people as identified by themselves and encourages their participation and involvement regardless of background or status. Every young person has the right to participate in the ballot in order to effect change and to help improve the range of outcomes and life chances available to them.

16. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

- 16.1 There are no implications for tackling health inequality or the promotion of health and wellbeing directly emerging through this report.

17. REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

17.1 Community safety and a fear of knife crime have been highlighted as priorities in both local and national voting processes by young people. The work undertaken with the United Kingdom Youth Parliament and the Regional Youth Work Unit will help to inform the development of policy and local strategies and services to address the issues and to understand the reasons as to why these were featured in the campaign.

18. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

18.1 There should be no risks to the Council in promoting the work of the MYM campaign through the Council’s youth voice infrastructure.

19. 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. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

20.1 The recommendations are compatible with the Articles and Protocols of the Convention.

21. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

21.1 The outcomes of the “*Make Your Mark*” Ballot signify the unequivocal importance to young people of protecting the Environment and sustainability.

22. GLOSSARY

Make Your Mark – MYM
United Kingdom Youth Parliament - UKYP

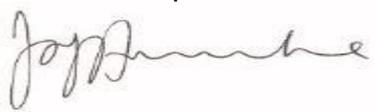
23. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Engaging the voice and participation of young people in Barnsley – Schematic

24. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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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Financial Implications/Consultation

...Joshua Amahwe (05/02/2020).....
(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer where there are no financial implications)