

Meeting of:	<b>Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 20 April 2023</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	<b>Youth Representation on Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee</b>
Purpose of Report:	To consider youth representation on Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee
Report Owner:	Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills
Responsible Officer:	Tara Reddy Senior Youth Manager
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language Morwen Hudson Head of Standards and Provision
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by the Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet considered a report on the Review of Youth Cabinet and Participation Structures on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and agreed to change the current Youth Cabinet constitution to remove the requirement for young people to be members of the Vale Youth Forum (VYF) to enable them to be elected on to the Youth Cabinet.</li> <li>• Cabinet also agreed to the proposal to develop a Vale Big Voice Forum which has since started to meet regularly and would like this new group to be known as Vale Youth Council.</li> <li>• The October 2021 Cabinet report did not sufficiently clarify expectations for ongoing youth representation on the Learning and Culture Scrutiny committee.</li> <li>• The current membership of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee includes two representatives of the Vale Youth Forum as non-voting observers.</li> <li>• It is proposed that the Vale Youth Council becomes a singular route for young people to sit on Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendations**

1. That the Scrutiny Committee considers the young person representation on the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.
2. That Scrutiny Committee recommends to Full Council a transition period where the Membership of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be amended to include two non-voting seats allocated to representatives from both the Vale Youth Forum and Vale Youth Council for the Municipal Year 2023/24 and from 2024/25 that two seats be allocated from the Vale Youth Council only.
3. That following approval of recommendation 2 above, to the Membership of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee that the Council Constitution be amended accordingly.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To support the delivery of the 'Review of Youth Cabinet' Cabinet report approved by Cabinet in October 2021.
- 2/3** To seek Council's approval.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Cabinet considered a report on the [Review of Youth Cabinet and Participation Structures](#) on 11th October 2021 and agreed to change the current Youth Cabinet constitution to remove the requirement for young people to be members of the Vale Youth Forum (VYF) to enable them to be elected on to the Youth Cabinet.
- 1.2 Cabinet also agreed to the proposal to develop a Vale Big Voice Forum to support wider access to participation and opportunities for young people (YP) across the Vale of Glamorgan. This group has started to meet regularly and would like this new group to be known as Vale Youth Council.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 The October 2021 Cabinet report as referred to in paragraph 1.1 above did not sufficiently clarify expectations for ongoing youth representation on the Learning and Culture Scrutiny committee, whose membership currently includes two representatives of the Vale Youth Forum as non-voting observers. It was intended that young person representation on this committee would come from the new Vale Youth Council.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Committee having regard to the Cabinet decision in October 2021 is therefore requested to consider amending its young person observer

representation on the Scrutiny Committee to be sought from the Vale Youth Council. The proposed change to the Youth Service structure as identified within the Cabinet report of 2021 will enable the Youth Service to increase the opportunities for young people to access and become further involved in local democracy and provide for consistency of approach.

- 2.3** Due to the lack of clarification within the report relating to observer representation on the Scrutiny Committee, a transition period is proposed where for the Municipal year (2023/24), two representatives from the Vale Youth Forum and two representatives from the Vale Youth Council are appointed as non-voting observers of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee. Having regard to the October 2021 report on the role of the Youth Forum it is therefore proposed for the year 2024/25 and thereafter that the representatives on the Scrutiny Committee Learning and Culture would come from the Vale Youth Council.
- 2.4** This transition period will allow for the new Vale Youth Council structure to become firmly established and allow for Vale Youth Forum members to engage with the Vale Youth Council. Vale Youth Forum members are encouraged to join the Vale Youth Council where the opportunity to confirm appointments as observers on the Scrutiny Committee will be available.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (“the 2015 Act”) requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- 3.2** The Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-2025 to achieving a vision of ‘Working Together for a Brighter Future’. This plan is reflective of the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations Act and is comprised of four Well-being objectives to deliver this vision:
- Objective 1 – To work with and for our communities
  - Objective 2 – To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth
  - Objective 3 – To support people at home and in their community
  - Objective 4 – to respect, enhance and enjoy our environment
- 3.3** To make sure we are all working towards the same purpose, the 2015 Act puts in place seven well-being goals on the Council. The 2015 Act makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals, not just one or two, these being:
- A prosperous Wales
  - A resilient Wales

- A healthier Wales
  - A more equal Wales
  - A Wales of cohesive communities
  - A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh Language
  - A globally responsible Wales
- 3.4** Youth Service participation opportunities contribute to achieving the wellbeing goals by:
- Supporting young people in decision making processes of the Council.
  - Providing personal and social skills development opportunities.
- 3.5** The 2015 Act imposes a duty on all public bodies in Wales to carry out “sustainable development”, defined as being, "The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals." The action that a public body takes in carrying out sustainable development includes setting and publishing well-being objectives and taking all reasonable steps in exercising its functions to meet those objectives.
- 3.6** The 2015 Act sets out five ways of working needed for the Council to achieve the seven well-being goals, these being:
- The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
  - Considering how the Council’s objectives impact upon each of the wellbeing goals listed above.
  - The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the Council services.
  - Acting in collaboration with other persons and organisations that could help the Council meet its wellbeing objectives.
  - Acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse.
- 3.7** This proposal meets the five ways of working by:
- Considering a long-term plan for youth participation in the Vale of Glamorgan.
  - Continuing to involve young people in the design of projects to ensure it meets their needs.
  - Supporting active engagement of young people in the wider decision-making processes within the Council.
  - Working with partners to support young people to meet objectives.

## **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

**4.1** There are no climate change or nature implications arising from this report.

## **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

**5.1** There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Employment**

**5.2** There are no employment implications arising from this report.

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

**5.3** There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## **6. Background Papers**

[Cabinet Report 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021](#)