

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 28 June 2010

REPORT ON: Dundee City Youth Council

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 335-2010

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Council about progress towards establishing a Youth Council for Dundee and to seek approval for the recommendations contained in Section 2

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Committee acknowledges the Lord Provost's interest in the establishment of the Dundee Youth Council and the role he played in bringing the Youth Council Steering Group together.
- 2.2 a Working Group of young people should be established with responsibility to work towards a first meeting of a Youth Council for Dundee in January 2011.
- 2.3 support for the Youth Council be provided by the Leisure and Communities Department working in close partnership with colleagues from Education and Social Work Departments and guided by the principles described within the "Framework for Engaging Young People" which has been produced as part of the Integrated Children's Services Plan for Dundee.
- 2.4 in order to ensure equality of opportunity and representation, a Youth Council Support Network should be established to be representative of the broad range of partners involved in supporting young people in Dundee. This Network Group should be a sub-group of the Dundee Youth Work Partnership.
- 2.5 the Youth Council presents an annual progress report to Dundee City Council detailing the issues identified by the young people of Dundee and the action taken to address these issues.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Staff support costs, including administrative support can be contained within the Leisure and Communities Department's Revenue Budget.
- 3.2 Costs for the use of meeting spaces within Council premises can be met in kind.
- 3.3 The Youth Council will be eligible to apply for an annual grant from the Youth Investment Fund to assist with costs associated with publicity and other materials.
- 3.4 The Youth Council Steering Group will be established with immediate effect to identify and access grant support from external sources.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2007 Youth Voice (the support group for Dundee's Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament) produced a manifesto entitled "Not Just the Future". This report was the

result of extensive consultation with young people and identified among a range of actions the importance of developing engagement with young people.

- 4.2 Since 2007 Youth Voice have been involved in developing engagement processes in partner agencies and have successfully led a Youth Conference as part of the Lord Provost's Youth Festival.
- 4.3 In December 2009 Dundee Youth Voice met with the Lord Provost to discuss ways in which young people could be more involved in civic activities. An initial meeting of the Youth Council Steering Group was formed by the Lord Provost and involved the Conveners of Leisure and Communities and Education, two of Dundee's Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and officers from the Leisure and Communities and Education Departments. The Lord Provost will continue to Chair the Steering Group meetings until such time Dundee Youth Council hold democratic elections to enable a young person to be elected to the position of Chair.
- 4.4 Between March and May 2010 around 650 young people were consulted about their views and ideas on the composition and responsibilities for a Youth Council in Dundee. The full report on this consultation is available on request. In summary the report states that the Youth Council should be:
- Responsible for identifying and representing young people's views and issues to decision- makers and negotiating an appropriate range of responses.
 - Comprised of 20-30 members. They should adopt a committee structure and meet monthly.
 - Representative of a broad range of young people to be drawn from existing representative structures and social groups. Young people should be able to get involved informally but there should be a formal structure for full Youth Council meetings.
 - Produce an action plan focussed on the issues raised during the consultation.
- 4.5 A structure is emerging in Dundee through which young people can engage in the development of service provision and tackle issues of concern to them at local and strategic level. At local level work is progressing in partnership with colleagues in the Education Department and young people engaged in Pupil Representative Councils to broaden the activities of the PRCs to encompass issues in the wider community. It is envisaged that within their wider role, Pupil Representative Councils will have an ongoing engagement with Local Community Planning Partnerships. At national level Dundee has been represented since 1999 by four members of the Scottish Youth Parliament. The development of a Dundee Youth Council will provide an opportunity for young people to engage on their terms with decision-makers at a City or strategic level.
- 4.6 The "Framework for Engaging Children, Young People and Families" outlines the national standards, underpinning values and principles and engagement opportunities that support the involvement of young people in decision-making. At the heart of the framework is the belief that engagement describes a process of involvement which respects the views expressed by young people and has a focus on the development of skills, knowledge and abilities which lead to young people becoming successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- 4.7 Dundee's Single Outcome Agreement refers to the development of youth forums and other representative structures. This outcome is a priority focus for Integrated Children's Services in Dundee and is being led by the Dundee Youth Work Partnership, one of the ICS Theme Groups.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. No major issues have been identified.
- 5.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Education and Director of Social Work have been consulted on this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
21 JUNE 2010