

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

31<sup>st</sup> August 2017



**Report of:** Andrea Dell, Service Manager, Democratic Engagement

**Title:** Continuing the development of relations between Scrutiny and Bristol City Youth Council

**Ward:** Citywide

**Officer Presenting Report:** Andrea Dell, Service Manager, Democratic Engagement

**Contact Telephone Number:** 0117 9222483

## Recommendation

Members are asked to consider and agree the following proposals which seek to strengthen the relationship between scrutiny and Bristol City Youth Council (BCYC)

## Summary

This paper sets out to suggest how, now that a new way of working has emerged, scrutiny can continue to improve and build on the previous arrangements with Bristol City Youth Council (BCYC).



## Context

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) recently identified 'Bristol City Youth Council' as one of their key priorities areas. For some time now Scrutiny Members and Officers have year on year been successfully building a constructive relationship with the Youth Council (YC). At times Members and Officers have attended the YC meetings and engaged in positive dialogue and offered practical support. On other occasions members of the Youth Council have attended and participated in formal scrutiny meetings and inquiry days.

As scrutiny is currently trialling a new way of working in 2017-2018 a scrutiny advisor and the BCC lead officer with the Youth Council, Martin James, have recently met to review the approach to joint working going forward. Below are some suggestions to help support the Scrutiny Lead Members to make in-roads and begin to engage with the Youth Council Members.

## Proposal

- The Youth Council (YC) meet twice a month; one meeting is their closed, informal meeting and the other is an open, more formal meeting. It's suggested that the scrutiny Lead Members and Officer have an open invitation to all of BCYC's formal monthly meetings - diary appointments including agenda items will be sent out in advance. This provides scrutiny with opportunities to go along and listen to the young people's views and discussions and see if there's anything they can contribute and offer to support them with. This would be a positive and effective way to start engaging with the young people in a setting in which they are comfortable with. This would also mirror the process the YC already have agreed with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.
- The Scrutiny Lead Members have a slot arranged on the Youth Councils 11<sup>th</sup> October open / formal meeting to go and speak with them (Sept agenda is already full). The Scrutiny Lead Members and Scrutiny Officer will discuss their approach to the meeting before-hand.
- The Scrutiny Officer has sent Martin James the list of priority scrutiny topics with a brief explanation about each one, so that he can talk informally to the young people initially about them and see if the young people might like to be involved in them in any way. From discussions it was suggested that for example: The Council Commissioning & Contracts Task and Finish Group - one member of the YC has recently been involved on the Bristol Youth Services /Youth Links commissioning process. Martin thinks it's possible he might like to come along to one of the task and finish groups meetings and explain from his perspective how he thought this went and if it could be improved etc etc.

## Appendices:

None

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None.