

EX30. Youth Council - Youth Engagement Review

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided details on the outcomes from the Council's youth engagement review. The review was carried out to: learn how to better engage with young people; find out how young people wanted to engage with the Council; identify barriers to engagement, and understand views on the introduction of a youth council.

The review began in March 2018 and was guided by the results of an online survey, hosted on Citizen Space, of young people, aged 12-25 living in the Falkirk Council Area. 627 responses were received with the following key findings:-

- 82% of young people agreed or strongly agreed that they would like to be involved in making decisions that affect them and their local area
- 53% of young people agreed or strongly agreed that they could influence decisions affecting their local area
- 15% of young people have been involved in Council youth engagement activities
- 28% of young people were interested in joining a youth council
- 70% of young people stated their preferred method of engagement as online surveys.

Decision

The Executive agreed to:-

- (1) develop, in conjunction with young people, an online survey platform similar to the Citizens Panel;**
- (2) promote youth engagement activities more effectively using the online channels which are preferred by young people;**
- (3) work closely with schools and Forth Valley College to provide young people opportunities to get involved in youth engagement;**
- (4) use social media to keep young people informed of changes and developments in their local areas;**
- (5) regularly ask young people what issues are important to them and design engagement activities around this. This may be achieved through an annual survey through which an engagement agenda is developed, and**
- (6) manage the expectations of young people by being honest about the scope of their influence over decision making processes.**