

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 19 DECEMBER 2005
REPORT ON: YOUTH CONSULTATION
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
REPORT NO: 725-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Committee on progress related to developments in consultation work with young people following Committee Report No 792-2004.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval for recommendations contained herein.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee note the following:

- 2.1 Progress towards achieving goals agreed in Committee Report No 792-2004.
- 2.2 The production by Dundee's Youth Voice Group of a Manifesto for Young People in Dundee which will highlight issues of concern to young people in the City. The scheduled date for production of the Manifesto is December 2006.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The costs associated with this Report can be met from within existing resources.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This Report describes the progress in developing a framework through which the views of young people can be heard.
- 4.2 All actions arising from this Report will be held within the framework set by Local Agenda 21.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report further develops opportunities for young people to play a fuller role in decisions that affect their lives.
- 5.2 Specific consideration will be given to ensuring that the views of young people from different minority groups and those with disabilities are heard.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 On 13 December 2004 Report No 792-2004 was approved. The report outlined the results of the "Let Us Know" survey which summarised the views held by young people about how they wished to be consulted. The following text refers specifically to the key recommendations contained in that Report.
- 6.2 In November 2005 the Go Young People Dundee event was held under the auspices of the Lifelong Learning Sub-Group of the Dundee Partnership. Around 500 young people in the 11 - 18 age range participated in a multi media event in Dundee University's Students Association. As part of this event the Youth Voice Group (Dundee's Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament) consulted those attending about the most important issues for them. The findings of this consultation will provide the starting point for the production of a Manifesto for Young People in Dundee.

- 6.3 In the lead up to this event Timeline video were contracted to produce a "Young Persons' Guide to Dundee". This DVD contains over 1000 opinions and provides an interesting base-line of opinion from young people in Dundee. Copies of the DVD are available on request
- 6.4 Contact with Elected Members at local level has continued to develop and takes account of local circumstances. The recent National Youth Work Week programme provided a focus for contact between Elected Members and young people.
- 6.5 The Youth Consultation Network has started meeting. The purpose of this group is to facilitate communication between young people and decision-makers. This group is currently facilitating access, by a range of young people, to the "Keeping Promises" consultation led by Scotland's Children's Commissioner.
- 6.6 Work is ongoing to promote to Community Planning Partners the online consultation opportunities accessible via the National Young Scot website, www.youngscot.org/dundee.
- 6.7 It was not possible to bring together the elections of Dundee's Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament with the event described in paragraph 6.2. MSYP elections were held at a separate event earlier in the year. The next elections are scheduled for 2007. Every effort will be made to harmonise the two events at that time.
- 6.8 Groups of young people involved in addressing local needs continue to develop. Needs and issues identified through this contact are contained in local Community Plans and Community Learning and Development Plans. In October this year a seminar for professional staff was held which focussed on involving young people in Community Regeneration. Part of the purpose of this seminar was to explore ways of improving opportunities for young people to engage in local community planning networks. Action identified at the seminar is being addressed.
- 6.9 Discussions are continuing to ensure that structures related to Children's Services Planning and Integrated Community Schools developments articulate with the Council's requirements to co-ordinate and lead on Community Learning & Development and the production of local Community Plans. The Department has, as a specific role, to ensure that opportunities are developed and promoted to involve young people within these planning structures.
- 6.10 The Scottish Executive have just issued a consultation on pending statutory advice on engaging children and young people in community planning. This consultation paper will be the subject of a separate report to Council.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation over the content of this Report has taken place with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executives (Finance and Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) and Directors of Social Work and Education.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 The following background paper was relied upon in the preparation of this Report:
Report No 792-2004 "Youth Consultation".

Signed: Stewart Murdoch
Director of Leisure and Communities

Date: 8 December 2005