

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda  
Item No.

Report of Strategic Director  
(Legal and Democratic Services)  
to  
Cabinet

On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Report prepared by:  
Fiona Abbott

---

In depth scrutiny project  
Relevant Scrutiny Committee: People Scrutiny Committee  
Cabinet Member: Councillor Anne Jones  
A Part 1 Agenda Item

---

## 1. Purpose of Report

To present the final report of the in depth Scrutiny project entitled "*In the context of the vision for Southend 2050, what is the vision of young people which improves their lives, and what are the pathways to achieve this ambition*". The project report was agreed by the People Scrutiny Committee in April 2019.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the report and recommendations from the in depth scrutiny project attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 To note that approval of any recommendations with budget implications will require consideration as part of future years' budget processes prior to implementation.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The People Scrutiny Committee selected its topic at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (Minute 152 refers). The project plan was agreed by the Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (Minute 152 refers).
- 3.2 The project was led by a member project team and the appointments were agreed at Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The project team comprised - Councillor Cheryl Nevin (Chairman), Councillors Margaret Borton, Steve Buckley, Alan Dear, Denis Garne, Judith McMahon, Mike Stafford and Chris Walker. Officer support was provided by Fiona Abbott, Ruth Baker, Brin Martin and Rob Walters with additional support as and when required from other officers.
- 3.3 The project focussed on listening to children and professionals working with young people. The project team met on 7 occasions during the review, including two workshops and a witness session with invited stakeholders.
- 3.4 The first workshop took place on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018, engaging with younger people aged 11-18 from a selection of youth organisations and schools across

the borough using the themes and emerging messages – connected & smart; opportunity & prosperity – asking them to reflect on ‘working towards Southend 2050, what ambitions do children & young people aspire towards in order to improve their lives?’

- 3.5 The second workshop was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018, engaging with young people aged 18-25 in a workshop style setting using the emerging key themes and messages – opportunity & prosperity; active & involved - asking them to reflect on ‘working towards Southend 2050, what ambitions do young people aspire towards in order to improve their lives?’.
- 3.6 The witness and engagement event took place on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 with a number of invited stakeholders, who provided their thoughts on:-
- the aspirations for the future of the children & young people they work with and what is important to them;
  - what will support young people to feel a valued part of Southend and be successful in their lives, including education & employment in 2050;
  - how can encourage young people to live and work in Southend;
  - the opportunities and challenges presented with how digital technology is used by children & young people in 2050 and how businesses, the community, the Council and local organisations can respond.
- 3.7 The People Scrutiny Committee received a detailed update on the progress of the review at the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (Minute 489 refers) and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (Minute 661 refers).
- 3.8 The final report from the in depth scrutiny review undertaken in 2018/19 has now been agreed by the People Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (Minute 853 refers).
- 3.9 Since the meeting in April the report of the in depth scrutiny review was shared with the Youth Council. The Youth Council were in agreement with the suggestions identified and were particularly pleased to see recommendations relation to each part of the Council having people tasked with holding a focus on children and young people, improving how the Council engages and shares information with young people on social media and exploring whether a hub for young people in the town centre could be developed.

#### **4 Recommendations**

- 4.1 In accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10 (Part 4 (e) of the Constitution), the in depth scrutiny report is now attached at **Appendix 1** for approval by Cabinet. It should be noted that approval of any recommendations with financial implications that will require new investment will need to go through the normal budgetary process before they can be implemented.
- 4.2 The overarching recommendations from the review are as follows:-

Recommendation:-

That all current and future planning for Southend, across all parts of the Council, should take account of the views and the needs of children and young people. The opportunities to include children and young people in the design and review of all activity and services of the Council should be proactively identified.

Recommendation:-

That the recommendations should be shared with Southend Youth Council and other young people's groups.

Recommendation:-

A young person's version of the recommendations should be produced.

The specific recommendations are detailed on page 5 of **Appendix 1**.

## **5. Other Options**

To note the report but not progress any of the recommendations.

## **6. Corporate Implications**

- 6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map - Becoming an excellent and high performing organisation; ensure residents have access to high quality education to enable them to be lifelong learners and have fulfilling employment, aligning to the following 2050 ambitions – active and involved, opportunity and prosperity.
- 6.2 Financial Implications – Any recommendations with financial implications that will require new investment and/or disinvestment will need to be addressed through the relevant outcome delivery plans and outcome based budgeting approach as part of Council budget setting.
- 6.3 Legal Implications – none.
- 6.4 People Implications – none.
- 6.5 Property Implications – none.
- 6.6 Consultation – as described in report.
- 6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications – any planning relating to children and young people will need to assess the equality and diversity implications however none are identified at this time.
- 6.8 Risk Assessment – none.

## **7. Background Papers**

None.

## **8. Appendix**

**Appendix 1 – in depth scrutiny project report**