


<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>COUNCIL</p> <p>18 May 2016</p>	
YOUTH MAYOR	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services - Councillor Sue Macmillan	
Open Report	
Classification: For Decision	
Key Decision: No	
Wards Affected: None	
Accountable Director: Kim Dero – Director of Delivery and Value	
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. In June 2014, the administration as part of its commitment to create more opportunities for young people, pledged to create a Youth Mayor and give young people a formal role in scrutinising and improving the services they receive from the council. This report details the outcome of the Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor, Member of Young Parliament and Deputy Member of Young Parliament elections and outlines some ideas and initiatives to get the voices of young people heard.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the Council welcomes and notes the election of the following young people :-
- Ms Aminata Koroma from Phoenix High School as Youth Mayor
 - Mr Joshua Yirenkyi Owuraka as the Deputy Youth Mayor
 - Mr Johnley Videna as the Member of Youth Parliament
 - Ms Huma Sindhu as the Deputy Member of Youth Parliament
- 2.2. That the Council notes the Youth Council's manifesto commitments and the structure put in place to achieve these goals.

- 2.3. That the Youth Mayor or Deputy Mayor be invited to Full Council meetings to report on the Youth Mayoral or Youth Council activities.
- 2.4. That Standing Orders be amended to allow the Youth Mayor or Deputy Mayor to report on the activities undertaken, submit questions from young people to Full Council and its Committees, and raise any other issues young people would like addressed that affects the lives of young people who live, study or work in the borough.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. As part of its commitment to create more opportunities for young people, Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor positions have been created to give young people a formal role in scrutinising and improving the services they receive from the council.

4. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 4.1. The Council's aim is to change the tone of voice and provide services that encourage opportunity, good citizenship, learning and development for our young people. Over a two week period in March, young people in schools, community centres and youth clubs across the borough voted for a Youth Mayor and UK Youth Parliament member.
- 4.2. On 22nd March 2016, Ms Aminata Koroma from Phoenix High School was elected as the Youth Mayor with a total of 1,039 votes. While Joshua Yirenkyi Owuraka from Hurlingham Academy was elected as the Deputy Youth Mayor with 846 votes. The Youth Mayor and her deputy will represent young people in the borough and will champion their local campaigns. They will accompany the Mayor at events, lead the Council's youth strategy and lead local consultations.
- 4.3. The UK Youth Parliament elections were also announced in late March. The Member of Youth Parliament elected was Johnley Videna from Ark Burlington Danes Academy. He will be aided by, the Deputy Member of Youth Parliament, Ms Huma Sindhu who attends Fulham Cross Girls' School. The pair will represent the voice of the borough's young people nationally at the UK Youth Parliament.
- 4.4. The Youth Mayor and Member of Youth Parliament will co-chair the Council's Youth Council.

5. PROPOSALS AND ISSUES

- 5.1. The Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor have agreed their manifesto in partnership with the Youth Council, Member of Youth Parliament and Deputy based on the findings of the annual Make Your Mark Campaign. Over six thousand ballots were cast in October 2015 which identified the top issues for young people in the borough.

The top issues were:

- Living Wage (1310 votes)
- Tackling Racism and Racial Discrimination (790 votes)
- Child Poverty (708 votes)
- A Curriculum to Prepare us for Life (686 votes)

5.2. The Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor, the Member of Youth Parliament and Deputy have formed a Youth Cabinet and each member has taken ownership of one manifesto commitment. The first Youth Cabinet meeting took place on Monday 25 April 2016 where they finalised the manifesto and agreed responsibilities.

5.3. The Youth Council Manifesto commitments are as follows:

1. Encourage local employers to adopt the Living Wage.

We will:

- Continue to find out the views of local young people on the Living Wage.
- Research and identify employers that adopt the living wage and promote this to young people.
- Work alongside Councillors, the Partnership for Young People and relevant decision makers to highlight the importance of the living wage and encourage more employers to adopt it, to raise the standard of living for local young people.

2. Help to Tackle Racism and Racial Discrimination

We will:

- Link with and localise the UK Youth Parliament campaign which is aiming to:
- Change discriminatory attitudes of young people towards race and religion.
- Raise levels of understanding about different races and religions, communities and cultures.
- Challenge negative images of race and religion on social media.
- Promote diversity and inclusion within communities.

3. Help to Reduce the Impact of Child Poverty

We will:

- Research, find out the views and experiences of young people and develop a greater understanding of the impact of child poverty in the borough.
- Work with the poverty and worklessness commission, local organisations and services and feed into local strategies aiming to tackle and reduce the impact of child poverty.

4. Support young people to be prepared for a healthy, happy and productive adult life.

We will:

- Build on consultations already undertaken to increase our understanding of what young people want and need.
 - Work with schools and local youth activities and service providers (Through the developing Partnership for Young People) to inform and enhance the offer for young people and the opportunities and support they receive to prepare them for adult hood including Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and citizenship sessions, online resources and workshops.
 - Work with local business to encourage them to pledge to offer more and better work experience opportunities for local young people
- 5.4. Officers will help turn the manifesto into a delivery plan and assign areas of work to relevant senior officers, departments and Cabinet Members. The Youth Cabinet will spend the summer carrying out research and will be supported by the Young People's Participation Officer, Communications Office, Mayor's Office, Committee Services and the Policy Team. Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Chairs will be engaged to champion relevant areas of their delivery plan.
- 5.5. In order for the voice of young people to be heard through their elected representatives at the highest level of decision making in the Council, it is proposed that the Youth Mayor or Deputy Mayor would be invited to Full Council meetings with the opportunity to:
- report on their activities
 - submit questions from young people to Full Council
 - submit an annual report on their work undertaken during their term in office
 - raise any other issues that affects the lives of young people who live, study or work in the borough.

6. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Youth Council Manifesto commitments are in concordance with the Council's approach to promoting social inclusion.

Implications completed by Fawad Bhatti, Policy and Strategy Officer, 020 8753 3437

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Whilst there are no direct legal implications in this report consideration should be given to the need for a confidentiality agreement for the Youth Mayor, disclosure of emails and other correspondence by the Youth Mayor particularly under the Freedom of Information Act and any Insurance issues depending on activities being undertaken.

7.2 Implications completed by Joyce Golder, Principal Solicitor, 020 7361 2181.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It is anticipated that in borough travel costs for the Youth Mayor and their deputies will be supported.

8.2 Implications completed by: Kayode Adewumi, Head of Governance and Scrutiny 020 8753 2499.

9. BUSINESS IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are no direct implications.

9.2. Implications completed by: Kayode Adewumi, Head of Governance and Scrutiny 020 8753 2499.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT**

None.