

Report sponsor: Strategic Director of Corporate Resources
Report author: Acting Head of Democracy

Endorsement of the election of Youth Mayor for 2019-20

Purpose

- 1.1 Derby City Council undertook its second annual citywide elections for the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor in February this year.

Almost 15,000 ballot papers were circulated to 19 secondary schools, of which 8,304 were returned, providing young people across the city with their first experience of the democratic process and representing an increase of almost twenty per cent on the previous year.

- 1.3 The final result saw Abdul-Moiz Siddiqi of Derby Manufacturing UTC and Gagandeep Kaur of Derby Moor Academy elected as Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor respectively.
- 1.4 All candidates were invited to attend the AGM for formal recognition and to receive certificates. Owing to the rescheduling of the meeting, it is now proposed that this will take place in July. The term of office of the Youth and Deputy Youth Mayor will remain unaffected.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To thank Frederico Almeida and Sonja Sebastian for the time they have dedicated to representing young people in Derby as Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor over the past 12 months.
- 2.2 To commend the efforts of all the candidates who participated in the Youth Mayor elections in 2019.
- 2.3 To endorse the election of Abdul-Moiz Siddiqi and Gagandeep Kaur as Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor for Derby for the 2019-20 municipal year.
- 2.4 To invite the newly elected Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth mayor to make a declaration of office before Council at the next scheduled meeting.

Reason

- 3.1 The council introduced the position of Youth Mayor in 2014. Since then, the role has developed substantially to encompass a wide range of activities representing young people in Derby.

Formal recognition of both those elected and those who put themselves forward as

candidates is a demonstration of Council's continuing commitment to give young people a stronger voice in local decision making.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Council established the post of Youth Mayor in June 2014 as part of the authority's strategy to improve engagement with children and young people.
- 4.2 The roles were originally reserved for members of the Voices in Action Youth Council, but the process has been rolled out to involve more young people each year. In 2018, the first citywide elections were held following agreement with secondary school head teachers.
- 4.3 Each secondary school can nominate up to three candidates to apply for the position. These were shortlisted to one candidate per school by the Head of Democracy, Electoral Services Manager, Participation Officer and the current Youth Mayor. The final selection process involved the Voices in Action Youth Council voting for their top four candidates to go through to the final stage.

The candidates' videos of their speeches are provided to each secondary school along with a ballot box, booth and ballot papers to undertake an election process. A count was then undertaken with Electoral Services, the Participation Officer and volunteers from the Police cadets.
- 4.4 Since 2015, the Youth Mayor has taken an active role in decision making, having been invited to attend meetings of Council Cabinet as well as relevant Overview and Scrutiny Boards, and invited to speak on matters under consideration by councillors. The Youth Mayor also attends ceremonial events alongside the Mayor.
- 4.5 The Youth Mayor is the Chair of Voices in Action. They are expected to champion the objectives of the group, which are decided by young people annually.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 The successful candidates were elected in citywide elections at secondary schools and colleges in February 2018, following a shortlisting process through the Voices in Action Youth Council.

Other options

- 6.1 Do nothing. Formal recognition of the Youth Mayor is not required constitutionally.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None directly arising.

Legal implications

8.1 None directly arising.

Other significant implications

9.1 None directly arising.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)	Emily Feenan, Acting Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services	13 May 2019
Report sponsor	Don McLure, Strategic Director of Corporate Resources	13 May 2019
Other(s)	Adele Styles, Children and Young People's Participation Officer	13 May 2019

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	None