



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

## **Endorsement of the election of Youth Mayor for 2022-23**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 Derby City Council undertook annual citywide elections for the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor in January 2022.

Almost 18,000 ballot papers were circulated to 19 secondary schools, of which 10,976 were returned, providing young people across the city with their first experience of the democratic process.

- 1.3 The result saw Omar Aslam of Littleover Community School and Gloria Osei Bonsu of Derby Moor Academy elected as Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor respectively.
- 1.4 The results were announced by the Mayor of Derby to the Voices in Action Youth Council at an event held at the Museum of Making on 7 February. Omar and Gloria are now invited to make their declaration of acceptance of office before the Annual General Meeting of Council.

### **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To thank Connie Spencer and Priya Gill for the time they have dedicated to representing young people in Derby as Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor over the past two years.
- 2.2 To commend the efforts of all the candidates who participated in the Youth Mayor elections in 2022.
- 2.3 To endorse the election of Omar Aslam and Gloria Osei Bonsu as Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor for Derby for the 2022-23 municipal year.
- 2.4 To invite the newly elected Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor to make a declaration of acceptance of office before Council.

### **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 the election of the Youth Mayor is a demonstration of Council's ongoing commitment to give young people a stronger voice in local decision making.

- 3.2 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were no Youth Mayor elections held in 2021. The retiring Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor have served for two consecutive years, having not had opportunity to undertake their role to its full extent throughout 2020-21.

## **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 extended 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. In addition, any young person wishing to apply for the position that does not attend a secondary school but fits within the criteria to stand for youth mayor are also able to apply. Candidates were asked to make submissions explaining the issues they believed most affected young people in Derby and how they would represent their peers were they to be elected as Youth Mayor.

One candidate per school was selected by a shortlisting panel that included the Head of Democracy, Electoral Services Manager and the Children and Young People's Participation Officer. A hustings event was held at the Museum of Making in December 2021, where the Voices in Action Youth Council selected four candidates to progress to citywide elections.

Videos of the candidates' speeches are provided to each secondary school, together with a ballot box, booth and ballot papers to undertake an election process. A count was then undertaken at the Council House by volunteers from Democratic Services, Electoral Services and Children's Commissioning.

- 4.4 Omar and Gloria have been elected by their peers, having pledged to tackle issues such as young people's mental health, youth employment and knife crime during their term of office.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 The Youth Mayor is the Chair of Voices in Action Youth Council. 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 in January 2022, 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
<b>Legal</b>		
<b>Finance</b>		
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Emily Feenan, Acting Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services	12 May 2022
<b>Report sponsor</b>	Simon Riley, Strategic Director of Corporate Resources	12 May 2022
<b>Other(s)</b>	Adele Styles, Children and Young People's Participation Officer	11 May 2022
<b>Background papers:</b>	None	
<b>List of appendices:</b>	None	