



Subject:	Belfast City Youth Council Update
Date:	22nd September 2022
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS
Contact Officer:	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer – Community Provision, CNS

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the Belfast City Youth Council (BCYC) and seek approval for upcoming engagement with elected members.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Note the update on the Belfast City Youth Council.ii. Approve the recommended approach to engagement with elected members and the youth council in coming months including postponing the next special meeting of committee with the BCYC until December 2022 and arranging an initial meeting with BCYC and nominated elected member Youth Champions.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Special meetings of the People and Communities Committee and the Belfast City Youth Council (BCYC) are held on a regular basis to provide an update on the work of the Youth Council which is supported by the council's Children & Young People's Co-ordinator.

3.2	<p>In recent months there has been a decrease in activity due to the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • turnover in council staff who provide support for the work of the BCYC; • the summer period is traditionally a time of reduced activity as BCYC members are on summer holidays; • Covid restrictions/concerns have impacted opportunities for the newly formed BCYC to meet and thus the majority of meetings held to date have primarily been online.
3.3	<p>The next special committee meeting with BCYC is scheduled for 4th October 2022. Given the issues outlined above officers are seeking approval to postpone the next meeting until December 2022. A new Children & Young People’s Co-ordinator has just been appointed and they will need time to be inducted, to form and build on relationships internally and externally and particularly BCYC members focusing on reviewing previous plans and progress and on supporting them to develop new idea, priorities and projects.</p>
3.4	<p>Members will recall that at the June 2021 meeting between P&C and BCYC, it was agreed that there was potential to improve communication and co-operation between Councillors, Officers and Belfast City Youth Council and that this could be done via the nomination of one representative from each political party to take a leadership role in working and engaging with the BCYC on issues and/or motions which relate to young people.</p>
3.5	<p>Given the recommendation that the Special committee meeting is postponed until December, officers further recommend that a meeting of the nominated party Youth Champions and the BCYC is organised in October/November to allow for introductions and initial discussions to be had on the proposed/planned priorities of the BCYC for the coming term.</p>
3.6	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications.</p>
3.7	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications of this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>