

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023

REFERENCE FROM LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:  
20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023

“YOUTH REPRESENTATION ON LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE (DLS) –

The report was presented by the Head of Standards and Provision and the Senior Youth Manager for Universal Provision. The purpose of the report was to consider youth representation on the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet had considered a report on the Review of Youth Cabinet and Participation Structures on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 and agreed to change the current Youth Cabinet Constitution to remove the requirement for young people to be members of the Vale Youth Forum (VYF) to enable them to be elected on to the Youth Cabinet.

Cabinet also agreed to the proposal to develop a Vale Big Voice Forum which had since started to meet regularly and would like this new group to be known as Vale Youth Council.

The October 2021 Cabinet report did not sufficiently clarify expectations for ongoing youth representation on the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee. The current membership of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee included two representatives of the Vale Youth Forum as non-voting observers.

It was proposed that the Vale Youth Council becomes a singular route for young people to sit on Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.

Following the presentation of the report, Committee Members were invited to speak. Councillor Marshallsea stated that as there were already young people actively participating in the Committee, it would be unfortunate to lose their input and therefore proposed that representatives of both the Vale Youth Forum and Vale Youth Council be included in the Committee's membership permanently.

The Officers subsequently provided the following information in response to comments and queries from the Committee:

- Vale Youth Forum members were able to also be members of the Vale Youth Council.
- Whereas the Vale Youth Council was a Vale of Glamorgan Council organisation run by the Youth Service, the Vale Youth Forum was not.
- The aim was to engage with as many youth groups as possible, and to speak with a variety of organisations and special interest groups to encourage as much youth participation as possible.

- The key to the report's recommendations was that which was agreed in the 2021 report to Cabinet.
- The intention was that the Vale Youth Council would be the vehicle to representation on the Scrutiny Committee from 2024 onwards with both the Vale Youth Council and Vale Youth Forum being represented in the interim.
- Having two non-voting observer representatives from each youth organisation ongoing may cause concern amongst other groups who wanted to be involved.
- It was hoped that Vale Youth Forum members would still be represented at the Committee, if they were also members of the Vale Youth Council.
- The Vale Youth Council was open to all young people who wanted to be involved.
- Currently there were 15-16 actively engaged members of the Vale Youth Council.

The Director of Learning and Skills also advised that the Vale Youth Council was not a new group, and that Councils were expected to establish groups of this kind. The Vale Youth Council had been in place for a number of years and the 2021 Cabinet report sought to clarify arrangements for the group.

Committee Members advised that it was important to hear from a variety of youth voices, and to increase youth enthusiasm, participation and involvement in the Committee, and this included the independent voices of those who may not wish to join the Vale Youth Council.

With no further queries or comments, Committee subsequently:

#### RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T Scrutiny Committee recommend to Full Council that the Membership of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be amended to include two non-voting seats allocated to representatives from each of the following organisations from the Municipal Year 2023/24 and onwards:
  - Vale Youth Forum; and
  - Vale Youth Council.
- (3) T H A T following approval of Recommendation (2) above by Full Council to the Membership of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee, the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.

#### Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having regard to the report and discussions at the meeting, to support the delivery of the 'Review of Youth Cabinet' Cabinet report approved by Cabinet in October 2021.

(2&3) To seek Council's approval."