

## **Report to Council**

**Subject:** Appointment of Gedling Youth Mayor  
**Date:** 24 April 2019  
**Author:** Director of Health & Community Wellbeing

### **Purpose**

For Council to consider the appointment of a Youth Mayor for the Borough.

### **Recommendations**

#### **THAT:**

- 1) Council agrees to support the principle of a Gedling Youth Mayor;**
- 2) The Protocol at Appendix 1 be approved; and**
- 3) The appointment of the Youth Mayor shall take place at a Special Meeting of the Council immediately following the Annual General Meeting on 22 May 2019.**

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 Following discussions at Gedling Youth Council meetings, and in line with Nottinghamshire County Youth Participation Team's youth engagement approach, it is proposed that Gedling Borough Council appoints a Youth Mayor.
- 1.2 Nomination of the Youth Mayor would be made annually by the Gedling Youth Council. Initially a candidate will be selected based on their long standing service on, and contribution to, the work of the Youth Council, but Council reserves the right to consider in future years whether any other form of selection process may be appropriate. The role will mainly be a civic and honorary one and the term of office will be for 1 year.

- 1.3 This proposal mirrors similar roles that have proved highly successful in other districts nationally and locally, including Ashfield and Mansfield, and presents an opportunity to build upon our very positive youth engagement work to date.

## **2 Proposal**

- 2.1 This report seeks Council approval to formally establish and support the principle of a Youth Mayor for the Borough of Gedling. At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting on 22 May a short meeting of Council will be held to appoint to the position.
- 2.2 As members will be aware, a review of the Council's constitution is currently being carried out. It is proposed that the new version will make full reference to the role of Youth Mayor, so future reports to Council to approve the establishment of the role will not be necessary. As the current constitution does not feature the Youth Mayor, and does not include provisions for appointment of a Youth Mayor at the Annual General Meeting it is proposed that for this municipal year a one off meeting is held immediately following the Annual General Meeting in May to formally appoint the Youth Mayor. The new version of the constitution, with full terms of reference for the Youth Mayor, should be implemented in time for the 2020/21 year so there should be no need for further reports to Council.
- 2.3 The proposal supports Gedling Plan 2019/20 Value '**A cooperative Council that listens to and involves its citizens, partners and employees in playing an active part in creating a prosperous future**' and Gedling Plan Priority '**Strong and Dynamic Communities**', providing a public facing role model for young people in the Borough representing citizenship and pride. Current Youth Mayor roles in other districts have attracted positive publicity and offer the opportunity for intergenerational attendance at engagements alongside the existing Civic Head. The Youth Mayor protocol at **Appendix 1** sets out the terms and expectations of the role, and will be underpinned by a parental agreement and more detailed code of conduct and communications policy.

## **3 Resource Implications**

- 3.1 Support and advice for the role will be offered from existing officer time. There would be no other ongoing budget requirements for the role aside from the cost of the badge of office and reasonable travelling expenses. These can be met from within existing Community Relations budgets and not expected to exceed £500 per annum.

## **4 Appendices**

- 4.1 Gedling Borough Council Youth Mayor Protocol 2019

### **Gedling Borough Council Youth Mayor Protocol March 2019**

#### **Overview**

In common with a number of other local authorities across the County and nationally, commencing in 2019, Gedling Borough Council is introducing the appointment of a Youth Mayor. The Youth Mayor will be nominated from within the Gedling Youth Council annually in April and formally appointed at the Council's Annual General Meeting and Mayor making ceremony. The role is non – political and ceremonial and open to young people aged 13 years and over. In nominating the Youth Mayor, Gedling Youth Council Members will be advised to consider candidates who can demonstrate a significant track record of service on the Gedling Youth Council.

#### **Role of the Youth Mayor**

The Youth Mayor will act as a role model for young people and an advocate of Citizenship and Pride in the Borough, mirroring the role of the existing Civic Head. The appointee will represent the Council at an agreed schedule of Civic engagements within the Borough, wherever possible outside of school hours, attending alongside either the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

#### **Guidance, support and supervision**

The Youth Mayor will be supported by the GBC Community Relations Team. Notification of engagements, including dress protocols and arrangements will be provided by the Civic Support Officer / Democratic Services Team. Advice on transport to engagements will be offered by the Council along with an opportunity to claim travel expenses.

The number of engagements attended by the Youth Mayor will be dependent upon their availability, and that of a parent or guardian to accompany them. The list of annual engagements below gives examples of the types of engagements available.

#### **Examples of regular Civic Engagements within the Borough**

- Pride of Gedling Awards
- The Mayor's Civic Service

- A Dare Graduation
- A Care Home visit
- A Play Event / Arnold Carnival / Other suitable
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Ceremony
- The Remembrance Sunday event
- A Christmas Lights switch on

## **Code of Conduct**

As a public facing representative of the Borough Council, the Youth Mayor is expected to uphold a high standard of conduct and personal presentation at all times, being polite and courteous to Council associates and members of the public alike. Guidance will be provided to the incoming Youth Mayor regarding representational and reputational matters, both in terms of face to face interactions and personal social media / news media. Further information will be included in a separate agreement with the incoming Youth Mayor and their parent or guardian.

## **Communication**

The role of Youth Mayor at Gedling Borough Council is not a democratically elected position, as is the case at some Local Authorities. There is therefore no specific requirement that the duties of this role include formal written communication with the public. Any external communication to the Youth Mayor (i.e. requests for attendance at engagements, press statements etc.) should be directed to the generic Civic Email inbox: [civic@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:civic@gedling.gov.uk).

The role of Youth Mayor is not an appropriate channel for members of the public to direct service complaints about the Council. Should such incidences arise, the Youth Mayor is advised to inform the individual to contact the Council directly.

Any social media mentioning Gedling Borough Council generated by the Youth Mayor would need to be sent by members of the Council's communications team, on behalf of the Youth Mayor, from a dedicated GBC social media account.

## **Safeguarding**

In accordance with Safeguarding of young people national guidelines, if under 18 years of age the Youth Mayor must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to all engagements, and the parent or guardian will carry full responsibility for the young person at all times. A risk assessment will be conducted on the role and

updated annually. The parent or guardian of the incoming Youth Mayor will be required to sign a terms of agreement and photography consent form.

### **Attendance at Full Council**

The Youth Mayor will be invited to attend meetings of the Council.

### **Regalia**

Unlike the Civic Head, there will be no requirement for the wearing of robes of office however a suitable Youth Mayor medallion of office has been created to enable the Youth Mayor to be clearly identifiable at events and in the media. This will be retained by the outgoing Youth Mayor at the end of the term of office.