

Report to Council

Subject: Appointment of Gedling Youth Mayor

Date: 16 September 2020

Author: Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services

Purpose

For Council to agree the appointment of Muhammad Malik as Gedling Youth Mayor 2020–2021.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- 1) Council thanks outgoing Youth Mayor Abigail Hutchinson for her commitment to the role during the last year; and**
- 2) Council agrees the appointment of Muhammad Malik as Gedling Youth Mayor 2020–2021**

1 Background

- 1.1 Following discussions at Gedling Youth Council meetings, and in line with Nottinghamshire County Youth Participation Team's youth engagement approach, on 24 April 2019 Council resolved to support the principle of a Youth Mayor. At that meeting it was agreed by Council that the first Youth Mayor be appointed at a special meeting of the Council following the Annual AGM on 22 May 2019. The Youth Mayor is a Gedling Borough Council role. The position acts 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 represents 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.

- 1.2 On 22 May 2019, Abigail Hutchison was appointed as Gedling's first Youth Mayor. During her term in office Abigail has been an outstanding role model for young people in Gedling. She has attended many public appointments alongside the Council's Mayor, including the very first Friday night opening of the Arnold Carnival in June 2019 and welcoming a Rotenburg School to a Civic Centre twinning event in September 2019.
- 1.3 The process nomination of the Youth Mayor is made annually by the Gedling Youth Council. The candidate is selected based on their long standing service on, and contribution to, the work of the Youth Council.
- 1.4 This process mirrors similar roles that have proved highly successful in other districts nationally and locally, including Ashfield and Mansfield, and builds upon our very positive youth engagement work to date.
- 1.5 In line with national Covid-19 safety guidelines, no AGM was held in May 2020, therefore the appointment has been deferred to this Council meeting.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that Council agrees the appointment of Muhammad Malik as Youth Mayor 2020–2021.
- 2.2 Due to there not being the opportunity to present the Youth Mayoral medallion of office in person to Muhammad, due to current Coronavirus restrictions, provision has been made to send the medallion to him directly.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 The alternative option would be not to appoint the new Youth Mayor. However, on 24 April 2019 Council resolved to support the establishment of a Youth Mayor for the Borough recognising the role supported the values and priorities within the Gedling Plan at that time. Appointing the Youth Mayor provides a public facing role model for young people in the Borough representing citizenship and pride and therefore continues to support the Gedling Plan 2020/23 Value 'A cooperative Council that listens to and involves its citizens, partners and employees' and the Priority 'Cohesive, Diverse and Safe Communities'.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no ongoing budget requirements for the role aside from officer time and reasonable travelling expenses. These can be met from within existing budgets.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The appointment of the Youth Mayor is subject to a Youth Mayor Protocol and Declaration of Agreement, which is signed by both the Youth Mayor and a parent or guardian. This agreement can be found at Appendix A. The document stipulates requirements regarding supervision, conduct, communication and safeguarding. It addresses conduct that could bring the Council into disrepute, such as breaches of the Equality Act 2010, not speaking or making decisions on behalf of the Council and not using the role to seek advantage or disadvantage.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The Youth Mayor Protocol and Declaration of Agreement at Appendix A, stipulates the Youth Mayor should not do anything which may cause the Council to breach the Equality Act 2010.
- 6.2 The Council in appointing to this role is making a positive impact on the protected characteristic of Age. The role provides a role model for young people in the Borough and is an advocate of Citizenship and Pride in the Borough. It showcases positive young person representation at civic engagements throughout the Borough.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 None.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A: Gedling Borough Council Youth Mayor Protocol and Declaration of Agreement 2020

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by: Tina Adams

Date: 07/09/20

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: Francesca Whyley

Date: 04/09/20

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer

