

# ***Report to Council***

***Date of meeting: 25 May 2017***

**Subject:** Communities Select Committee - Co-option of Epping Forest Youth Council

**Report of:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

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## **Recommendation:**

- (1) That a representative of the Epping Forest Youth Council be appointed as a non-voting co-optee to the Communities Select Committee from the 2017/18 Municipal Year; and**
  - (2) That the representative be either one person or rotating representatives, as agreed by the Youth Council.**
1. At its meeting on 14 March 2017 the Communities Select Committee received a presentation from members of the Epping Forest Youth Council on the use of the Council's District Development Fund (DDF) funding of £8,000 for projects in the last year and the proposed use of the allocated £5,000 DDF funding for 2017/18. The Youth Council also gave a very informative and inspirational presentation on its current work.
  2. The Select Committee was so impressed with the Youth Council's presentation, and how the youth councillors presented themselves and answered questions at the meeting, that it agreed that it would like to invite a representative of the Youth Council to be co-opted to attend its meetings from the 2017/18 municipal year. This possibility was briefly discussed with the youth councillors attending the meeting, who thought that this would be very much welcomed by the Youth Council, and that they would be happy to consider whether this should be one youth councillor co-opted for all the meetings each year or different youth councillors attending each meeting. The Select Committee felt that it would benefit from having the views of a young person at its meetings and, indeed, potentially suggesting issues for discussion, and that the youth councillor(s) who attend meetings would benefit from experiencing and being involved with a formal committee environment. The Select Committee already has one co-opted member in the Chairman of the Epping Forest Tenants and Leaseholders Federation.
  3. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports the proposal for a representative of the Epping Forest Youth Council to be co-opted to the Communities Select Committee from the 2017/18 municipal year and that this be either be one person or rotating representatives, to be agreed by the Youth Council.
  4. The appointment of non-voting co-opted members to a select committee requires the agreement of the Council in accordance with Paragraph 6 of Article 6 (Overview and Scrutiny) of the Constitution. We therefore recommend this accordingly.