



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	14 th November 2016
Report Author	Howard Jones
Service Area	Legal and Governance Services
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non-Exempt
Committee Date	30 th November 2016

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

MERTHYR TYDFIL BOROUGH WIDE YOUTH FORUM (MTBWYF) CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP ON THE AUTHORITY'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Authority has been approached by Safer Merthyr Tydfil, which now supports the Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum (MTBWYF), to consider Youth Forum representation as co-opted members on each of the Councils five scrutiny committees.
- 1.2 This report proposes that an invitation is extended to the Forum to nominate five representatives from it to sit as "Youth Forum Co-opted Members" (Non-voting) i.e. one on the each of the five Scrutiny Committees to represent young people of the County Borough.
- 1.3 Such a position will provide a voice for young people where their views and ideas can be considered via the Authority's decision-making processes.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 The Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum be invited to nominate one Youth Forum Co-opted Member to sit as a non-voting co-opted member on each of the Authority's five scrutiny committees.
- 2.2 That the Authority's Constitution be amended accordingly.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An enquiry has been received from the Senior Youth Participation Officer at Safer Merthyr Tydfil about including young people from the Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum in the scrutiny process as co-opted members.

Safer Merthyr Tydfil delivers on this Authority's commitment in ensuring that young people of the County Borough are provided with the opportunity to influence and shape the services that affect them.

- 3.2 Scrutiny plays an important role in ensuring that local government remains effective and accountable and co-opted members bring an outside perspective to enrich the scrutiny process and their presence on scrutiny committees also makes the process more open and transparent for members of the public.

Co-opted members are like any other scrutiny member - the only difference is that co-opted members (with the exception of statutory co-optees) do not vote, although virtually all scrutiny business is conducted without the need to vote.

- 3.3 MTCBC has different categories of co-opted members on its scrutiny committees i.e. Publically Appointed; Voluntary Sector; Merthyr Tydfil Association of School Governors Rep; Diocese representative; Parent Governor Primary representative and Parent Governor Secondary/Special representative.

4.0 PROPOSAL FOR MERTHYR TYDFIL BOROUGH WIDE YOUTH FORUM (MTBWYF) REPRESENTATION AS SCRUTINY CO-OPTED MEMBERS

- 4.1 The Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum is open to every young person throughout the County Borough between the ages of 11 and 25.

- 4.2 The role¹ of the MTBWYF is "to provide young people with the opportunity to express their views freely and openly; to make changes in their community and take responsibility for decisions that affect their lives. To be democratic; Young people are not just representing themselves but providing a voice for all young people's thoughts and ideas on local issues. To give young people a voice and choice".

- 4.3 It is proposed that an invitation is extended to the Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum to nominate five representatives from the Forum to sit as "Youth Forum Co-opted Members" (Non-voting) i.e. one on the each of the five Scrutiny Committees.

- 4.4 The nominated representatives will be afforded the opportunity to attend Scrutiny Committee meetings, any training and development sessions, receive agendas and reports for meetings, with the opportunity to speak on agenda items and provide views/comments on behalf of the Youth Forum.

¹ Extracted from the "MTBWYF Terms of Reference" as provided by Safer Merthyr Tydfil.

- 4.5 The appointments, whilst in a non-voting capacity, would provide a further opportunity for the Authority to further formally engage with young people. The appointments are to be agreed on the basis that the representatives are members of the Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum and subject to change by the Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum itself.
- 4.6 It being accepted that the scrutiny committees meet on a six-weekly basis, it will be left to the co-opted member representatives of the Youth Forum to decide whether they attend every meeting or just meetings where they have a particular interest.

The Scrutiny Committee may also call upon the nominated representatives to attend if it feels the views of the young people would be required on a particular area of service.

- 4.7 In relation to attendance, there would also be the opportunity for representatives to claim mileage or transport costs to attend the scrutiny committee meetings and training events, as is the case with all scrutiny committee co-opted members.
- 4.8 If approved, the appointment of Youth Service co-opted member representatives to the Scrutiny Committee will enhance the scrutiny process and allow for young people between the ages of 11 and 25 to provide information, suggestions or comments for consideration by the Committee, and also participate in the preparation of the annual work programmes.
- 4.9 Youth Service Co-opted members must sign the Authority's Code of Conduct and the Register of Interests.
- 4.10 The arrangement of Youth Service co-opted member representatives to the Scrutiny Committee is to be reviewed every two years. The MTCBC Constitution provides for the term of office for co-opted members.²

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 5.1 Youth Forum representatives will be able to claim mileage or transport costs to attend the scrutiny committee events e.g. (meetings / training sessions), as is the case with all scrutiny committee co-opted members.

6.0 SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT SUMMARY

- 6.1 The Single Integrated Plan & Sustainability Impact Assessment has been completed and the proposals impact positively in empowering children's and young people's to

² Co-opted members shall hold office until: a). they resign from office; or b). they are removed from office by the organisation they represent; or c). they fail to attend a meeting of the scrutiny committee of which he or she is a member for a continuous period of six months beginning with the date of a meeting shall, on the expiry of that period, cease to be qualified to hold that office; or d). they are removed from office by the Leader who must give written notice of any removal to the proper officer. The removal will take effect two working days after receipt of the notice by the proper officer; or e). they are removed from office by resolution of the Council; or f). they are removed from office by resolution of a scrutiny Committee.

participate in the decision making process on services that affect their lives. No negative impacts have been identified.

7.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full assessment is not required at this time. The form can be accessed on the Authority's website/intranet via the 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.

GARETH CHAPMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR PHIL WILLIAMS
CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
AND CORPORATE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		Yes

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.