

FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	29 th September 2017
Report Author	Youth Cabinet/Samantha Morgan
Service Area	Community Wellbeing
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	25 th October 2017

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Proposal to change the dates of the term of office of the Youth Mayor

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines the proposal from the Youth Cabinet and Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum (MTBWYF) to change the dates of the term of office of the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor so that they run concurrently with the Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil, ie. change from Inauguration in November each year to May each year.
- 1.2 This proposal is a result of a review of the office of Youth Mayor undertaken by the Youth Cabinet. As part of the review, members of the Youth Cabinet consulted with a number of local authority councillors and relevant local authority staff, who have expressed support for the proposal.
- 1.3 Other developments as a result of the review include working more closely with local secondary schools to raise the profile of the Youth Mayor in order to increase the number of young people participating in elections.
- 1.4 The office of the Youth Mayor has not been reviewed since its inception in 2008.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION that

- 2.1 The proposal to change the dates of the term of office of the Youth Mayor role be agreed.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 MTBWYF was established in 2005 and represents the interests of young people aged 11-25 in the county borough through improving their participation in decisions that affect them. The office of Youth Mayor and MTBWYF is supported via a commissioned service with Safer Merthyr Tydfil, which employs a part time Participation Co-ordinator.
- 3.2 The office of the Youth Mayor was established in November 2008 following approval by Council. The original proposal which established the office was developed by MTBWYF, and identified the roles and responsibilities of the Youth Mayor, with a view to enhancing the status of MTBWYF and the Youth Cabinet. This was seen as sector leading practice in 2008.
- 3.3 The Youth Mayor is supported and assisted by the Deputy Youth Mayor in preparation for taking on the role the following year. Support is also provided from the local authority's Democratic Services Department through co-ordination of elections and the Mayor's Office for the Inauguration event.

4.0 THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The term of office of the Youth Mayor currently runs from November to October each year. The proposal is to change the term of office to run concurrently with the Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil which runs from May to April each year. Discussions have taken place regarding this proposal with the departments this would impact on, democratic services, the Mayor's office and with key individuals including the Childrens Champion.
- 4.2 The young people of MTBWYF currently believe that working with two Mayors across a term of office can be unsettling for individuals. This can mean disruption or a disjointed approach to the progress of key areas (pledges) taken forward by both the Youth Mayor and the wider MTBWYF group.
- 4.3 The benefits identified by the young people of MTBWYF for requesting the change are as follows:
 - A more cohesive approach and stronger working relationships could be established by working with just the one Mayor annually.
 - The profile of the Youth Mayor throughout the county borough would be raised.
 - It could enhance support for the role from a wider range of local councillors.
- 4.4 A phased approach is recommended, with the hustings and election proceeding as scheduled in October annually, this approach having been agreed with democratic services will minimise the impact on the department. This would then enable the Official Inauguration and Gala Ball to take place in early March 2018 with a view to the 2019 inauguration being held in line with that of the Mayor in May 2019.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It has been identified that there are currently no financial implications associated with this report.

6.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 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 Council's website/intranet via the 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.

LISA CURTIS JONES
CHIEF OFFICER (SOCIAL SERVICES)

COUNCILLOR DAVID HUGHES
CABINET MEMBER FOR
SOCIAL 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?		No

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