



<b>Committee</b>	Full Council
<b>Date</b>	27/03/2024
<b>Subject</b>	Review of East Suffolk's Model District Council on 9 February 2024, and recommendations to establish a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Councillor Dr Anthony Specia Chair of East Suffolk Council
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Key Decision?	No
Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
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## Purpose/Summary

This report provides a review of East Suffolk Council's (ESC's) Model District Council (MDC) for Youth event on 9 February 2024, and seeks Full Council's approval to establish a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council (ESYC) to give effect to the motion passed at the MDC.

## Recommendation(s)

That Full Council

1. Welcomes and acknowledges the motion unanimously passed by youth participants in the Model District Council of 9 February 2024, calling on East Suffolk Council to establish a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council for youth at secondary-school, and further to establish lines of communication and exchange between the East Suffolk Youth Council and East Suffolk Council;
2. Establishes a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council as soon as practicably possible;
3. Delegates to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services the authority, in consultation with the Chair of East Suffolk Council, the Constitution Review Working Group and in partnership with the Head of Communities and Leisure, to develop and implement plans for a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council.

## Strategic plan

How does this proposal support Our Direction 2028?

<b>Environmental Impact</b>	The establishing of an ESYC will assist the Council to hear from and consult with young people studying, working and living in East Suffolk on environmental matters, such as achieving net zero by 2030 and supporting sustainable transport.
<b>Sustainable Housing</b>	The establishing of an ESYC will assist the Council to hear from and consult with young people studying, working and living in East Suffolk on housing matters, such as to understand young people's housing needs and views on types of housing tenure.
<b>Tackling Inequalities</b>	The establishing of an ESYC will assist the Council to hear from and consult with young people studying, working and living in East Suffolk on equality matters, such as ensuring young people feel safe and digitally enabled.
<b>Thriving Economy</b>	The establishing of an ESYC will assist the Council to hear from and consult with young people studying, working and living in East Suffolk on economic matters, such as supporting young people to develop careers and businesses in East Suffolk.

<b>Our Foundations / governance of the organisation</b>	It is important for the Council to consult with stakeholders, including young people, and to take their feedback into consideration in taking decisions and formulating policy.
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## Justification for recommendations

### 1. Background

- 1.1 On 9 February 2024, a Model District Council (MDC) for Youth was held at ESC's Riverside offices. 51 pupils from 7 secondary schools across East Suffolk attended the event. The agenda included a keynote speech from Rhammel Afflick BEM (Head of Advocacy and Communications at the British Youth Council), a presentation on local government, a public speaking workshop, a 'Question Time' session with political leaders and an ESC marketplace which provided an opportunity for pupils to learn more about some of the services the Council provides, as well as potential career opportunities at the Council.
- 1.2 The event culminated in the simulation of an ESC Full Council meeting where the pupils played the parts of ESC councillors. Participants were tasked with considering the topic of intergenerational political equity and drafting motions to debate how the youth voice should be heard in East Suffolk. They were supported in preparing for the meeting by political group leaders and Political Group Support Officers.
- 1.3 The Participants and Research Guides for the MDC are appended to this report at Appendix A and B, for information and so that there is record of this civic event in the ESC's archives for posterity.
- 1.4 The feedback on the event from the schools which participated was very positive with comments received including *'a real taste of actual politics in action was invaluable to the pupils. They learnt so much, not just about the process, but about the power of politics'* (Thomas Mills High School, Framlingham) and *'I just wanted to contact you to say how much myself and our pupils enjoyed our day with you all on Friday. It was the first time we, as a specialist C & I school, have engaged in anything like this with neurotypical mainstream schools and it couldn't have been more successful. The pupils that were invited along had such a wonderful day and learnt so much, not only about council elections and protocol but also about themselves and their own resilience to thrive in situations that they previously may have shied away from due to their neuro diversity'* (Castle EAST School, Bungay) and *"Some of the best work I have seen from any council in engaging young people, well done"* (Benjamin Britten Academy, Lowestoft).

### 2. Introduction

- 2.1. The Chair of East Suffolk Council has championed youth democracy during his 23/24 chairship, including the convening of a MDC on 9 February 2024. The MDC was successfully delivered by the Chair in collaboration with the Council's Communities and Democratic Services teams and teachers from secondary schools across East Suffolk.

2.2. At the simulated Full Council meeting at the MDC, the young people unanimously passed the following motion:

*That Council resolves:*

- 2.2.1. *To create a Youth Council in East Suffolk Council, which will meet on a termly basis.*
- 2.2.2. *To elect youth councillors (age 12-17) on a yearly basis across key stages, schools and colleges, and ensure inclusion of those outside of the typical education system such as individuals in homeschool and in work.*
- 2.2.3. *To allow the Youth Council to attend meetings of Cabinet, Full Council, and relevant committees; and have a minimum of one yearly meeting with the Leader of East Suffolk Council, with speaking rights where legally permitted.*
- 2.2.4. *That a Cabinet Member to represent the voice of East Suffolk youths be appointed.*

### **3. Proposal**

- 3.1. The recommendations in this report have been drafted to acknowledge the motion from the youth, to confirm ESC's intention to establish a permanent ESYC and, importantly, so that the students who participated in the MDC can see that their motion was acted upon and responded to promptly, especially as some of the students will be completing the secondary school stage of their education at the end of the 23/24 academic year.
- 3.2. In formulating and finalising the Terms of Reference and arrangements for the ESYC, regard will be had to the specific asks of the young people as expressed in their MDC motion and implemented so far as is legal, possible and practicable.
- 3.3. In relation to the MDC resolution 2.2.4, it should be noted that the portfolio of the Cabinet Member with responsibilities for Communities, Leisure and Tourism includes Young People, Apprentices and Youth Council.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1. The costs of setting up and running an ESYC can be met within the Chair's existing civic budget of £6,600.
- 4.2. The hosting of the Model District Council event on 9 February 2024 cost in the region of £2,500. However, it is anticipated that, moving forward, termly ESYC meetings will cost significantly less because there will be lower spend on delegate material and catering for these shorter routine meetings.

### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1. The motion passed by the MDC on 9 February 2024 is not binding on ESC. It is advisory.
- 5.2. The ESYC will be able to make recommendations to ESC but it will not be able to take decisions binding on ESC.
- 5.3. All ESYC recommendations will require legal consideration and comment before being brought forward to ESC.

### **6. Risk Implications**

- 6.1. The health and safety and safeguarding risks in convening meetings for young people at ESC offices will be mitigated through partnership working with schools and effective risk assessment and management.

## **7. Options**

- 7.1. To agree the recommendations to set up a permanent ESC Youth Council and for resource to be committed to putting the necessary arrangements in place.
- 7.2. To not agree the recommendations to set up an ESC Youth Council.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1. That East Suffolk Council:
  - 8.1.1. Welcomes and acknowledges the motion unanimously passed by youth participants in the Model District Council of 9 February 2024, calling on East Suffolk Council to establish a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council for youth at secondary-school, and further to establish lines of communication and exchange between the East Suffolk Youth Council and East Suffolk Council;
  - 8.1.2. Establishes a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council as soon as practicably possible;
  - 8.1.3. Delegates to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services the authority, in consultation with the Chair, the Constitution Review Working Group and in partnership with the Head of Communities and Leisure, to develop and implement plans for a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council.

## **9. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 9.1. The reasons for the recommendation are for ESC to agree to establishing a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council to recognise and respect the youth voice in East Suffolk and to give effect to the motion unanimously passed by pupils at the MDC on 9 February 2024.

## **10. Conclusions/Next Steps**

- 10.1. If the recommendations in this report are agreed, the establishment of ESYC will be added to the work programme for the CRWG.

## Areas of consideration comments

### Section 151 Officer comments:

The ESYC can be financed within the Chair's existing civic budget.

### Monitoring Officer comments:

The Constitution Review Working Group will be consulted, and their views taken into consideration, in developing the arrangements and recommending amendments to the Constitution to provide for the ESYC.

### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion/EQIA:

The Terms of Reference and arrangements for the ESYC will ensure that it is open to and inclusive of all young people in East Suffolk.

### Safeguarding:

The arrangements for the ESYC will reflect best practice guidance on safeguarding, including risk assessments.

### Crime and Disorder:

Not applicable.

### Corporate Services implications:

*(i.e., Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Digital, Customer Services, Asset Management)*

ESYC meetings, once a term at ESH or Riverside, could be arranged and clerked by Democratic Services within existing budgets.

### Residents and Businesses consultation/consideration:

Not applicable.

## Appendices:

<b>Appendix A</b>	Participants Guide from the Model District Council on 9 February 2024
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<b>Appendix B</b>	Research Guide from the Model District Council on 9 February 2024
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## Background reference papers:

None.