

Community Planning Update	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	For Decision

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Leader and Champion
<b>Outcome</b>	Establish key relationships with strategic partners to deliver our vision for this Council area
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Elizabeth Beattie
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	Nil

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Developing and implementing the Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan will be a major undertaking and as previously reported will involve partnership working at many different levels in the area.
- 1.2 The Statutory Guidance for the Operation of Community Planning 2015 recognises and states 'a particular responsibility to encourage and promote the role that can be played by children and young people in community planning.' with specific reference to the structure set out in the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People's (NICCY) proposal for a Northern Ireland regional model of engagement. The NICCY's - Children and Young People's Participation Policy of Intent further supports and works towards mainstreaming the involvement and participation of children and young people in decisions that affect them or in matters which may have an impact on their lives.
- 1.3 'Priorities for Youth – improving young people's lives through youth work' sets the current overarching policy framework for youth work across Northern Ireland. It highlights participation of young people as a key priority. The policy states 'there will be a renewed focus on active and evidenced participation (of young people) at a local, sub regional and regional level ... to support the development of a credible, democratic and accountable voice for young people.'
- 1.4 In line with these models of participative engagement, the Education Authority Youth Service has four established local Youth Councils within the Borough – Ballymoney Youth Council, Coleraine Youth Council, Limavady Youth Council and Moyle Youth Council – each comprising of local young people (12 years+)

representing a range of interests both rural and urban including Neighbourhood Renewal areas and Section 75 groupings across the Borough - and providing opportunities to gain skills and knowledge to help them provide a voice for young people on the issues that matter to them. They are keen to have a link with Council as a way to ensure that young people's opinions can be heard.

## **2.0 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Education Authority Youth Service Local Youth Councils – proposed partnership**

2.1 It is proposed that Council enter into a partnership with the Education Authority Youth Service Local Youth Councils (group of four) with a view to establishing and fostering ongoing links between Council and young people.

2.3 A Partnership outline (**attached**) has been provided and would involve the following commitments:-

- To recognise the function of Ballymoney Youth Council, Coleraine Youth Council, Limavady Youth Council and Moyle Youth Council (Local Youth Councils) as a representative voice for young people
- To ensure inclusion of young people in Council consultations with regard to local services provision and Community Planning
- Inclusion of Youth Council representation in Council's Equality Forum
- Inclusion in capacity building opportunities made available to the community & voluntary sector through Council's community engagement provisions
- Opportunities to pro-actively engage and participate with the Mayor and Elected Members e.g. annual Local Democracy Week
- That Council nominate a representative(s) to act as a contact Youth Champion(s) for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough

### **Recommendations:**

**It is recommended that Council enter into a partnership with the Education Authority Youth Service Local Youth Councils (comprising of Ballymoney Youth Council, Coleraine Youth Council, Limavady Youth Council and Moyle Youth Council).**

**It is recommended that Council nominate a representative(s) to act as a contact Youth Champion(s) for the Borough.**



**Partnership outline between:**

**Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council  
and  
Education Authority Youth Service  
(Western and Northern Regions)**

**Ballymoney Youth Council, Coleraine Youth Council, Limavady Youth Council and Moyle Youth Council  
(Local Youth Councils)**

## Introduction

The Education Authority strategy - 'Priorities for Youth – improving young people's lives through youth work' sets the current overarching policy framework for youth work across Northern Ireland. It highlights participation of young people as a key priority.

The policy aims 'to continue to improve the non-formal learning environment by creating inclusive, participative settings in which the voice and influence of young people are championed, supported and evident.'

The policy states 'there will be a renewed focus on active and evidenced participation (of young people) at a local, sub regional and regional level ... to support the development of a credible, democratic and accountable voice for young people.'

Furthermore the principles supporting youth work as outlined in Priorities for Youth states that participation should be voluntary and enable young people to develop the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to tackle the issues that are important to them.

In addition, this is in line with the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) - Children & Young People's (CYP) Participation Policy of Intent for a Northern Ireland regional model of engagement to work towards mainstreaming the involvement and participation of children and young people in decisions that affect them or in matters which may have an impact on their lives.

The Youth Councils will provide a mechanism for children and young people to participate and pro-actively engage, thus promoting the Child Rights Agenda Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which states that "*States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child*".

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act places a statutory obligation on designated public authorities to have due regard to promote equality of opportunity and regard to good relations. Age is included as one of the nine specific categories. In accordance with its Equality Scheme, such designated public authorities should consult with relevant stakeholders including children and young people when, for example, developing policies or legislation on matters which may have an impact on their lives.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in partnership with the Education Authority local Youth Councils is putting into practice and making the contents of these policies a reality.

### **The Partnership will act as a mechanism for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council:-**

- To recognise the function of Ballymoney Youth Council, Coleraine Youth Council, Limavady Youth Council and Moyle Youth Council (Local Youth Councils) as a representative voice for young people
- To ensure inclusion of young people in Council consultations with regard to local services provision and Community Planning
- Inclusion of Youth Council representation in Council's Equality Forum
- Inclusion in capacity building opportunities made available to the community & voluntary sector through Council's community engagement provisions
- Opportunities to pro-actively engage and participate with the Mayor and Elected Members e.g. annual Local Democracy Week
- That Council nominate a representative(s) to act as a contact Youth Champion(s) for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough

### **EA Youth Services will:**

1. Convene and facilitate four youth councils (one in Ballymoney, one in Coleraine, one in Limavady and one in Moyle)
2. Oversee Youth Council recruitment process. (Membership to be drawn from across the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area to populate four youth councils).
3. Work with Youth Council members to identify issues, agree work programmes and prioritise areas of work on an on-going basis.
4. Oversee relevant representation of the Youth Council members on local and national committees, working groups, boards etc.
5. Promote youth participation and engagement in the design, delivery and evaluation of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council policies and services as required.

6. Organise consultations between Youth Council and young people aged 12-18 years on issues relevant to young people and the work of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.
7. Market & promote the Youth Councils.
8. Develop working relationships between Youth Council membership and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Councillors involving Councillor Youth Champions.
9. Provide training to Youth Council members, to enable them to youth-proof Council's policies and services that impact on children and young people.
10. Further develop and implement innovative methods of reaching, inspiring, motivating, training and empowering young people and in facilitating the voice of those who are seldom heard to be included in these structures.
11. Adopt and consistently apply a safe and clearly defined method to comply with all relevant Child Protection Policies and Guidelines.
12. Evaluate the effectiveness of programmes and activities undertaken by Youth Councils.

### **Membership**

In seeking to promote the principles of Section 75 Legislation, Youth Council membership will be made up as follows:

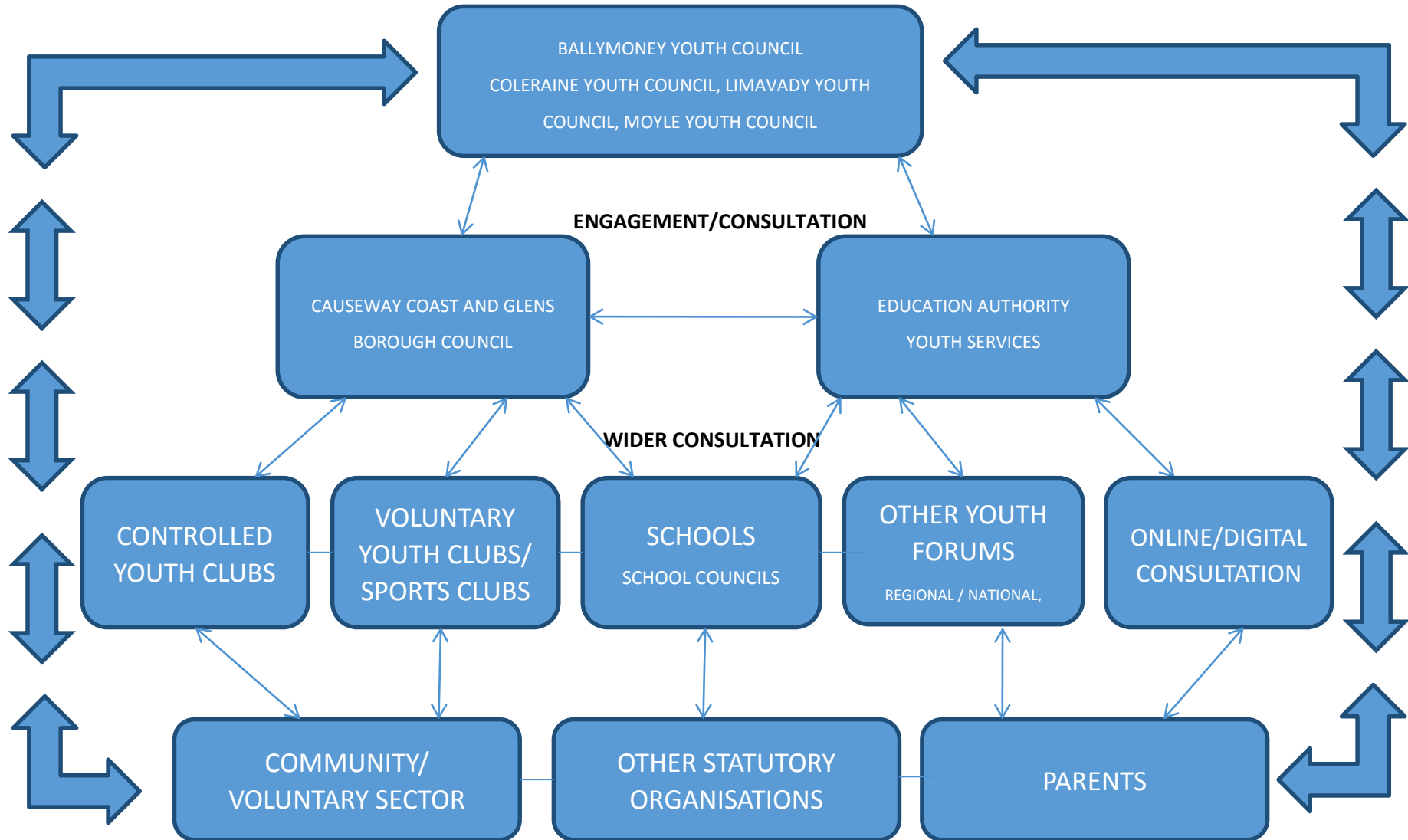
- Representation from Neighbourhood Renewal Areas
- Representation from Rural Areas
- Members from across the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area
- Organisations that represent Section 75 groups will be pro-actively targeted through consultation and encouraged to nominate to and promote the Youth Council within their contacts

### **Key Contacts within each Organisation –**

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Elizabeth Beattie Head of Policy and Community Planning
EA Youth Service	Ryan McGee (Area Youth Officer) Stephen Quigley (Area Youth Officer).

YOUTH COUNCIL'S PARTICIPATION/CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

FLOW OF PARTICIPATION/CONSULTATION



FLOW OF PARTICIPATION/CONSULTATION