



Subject:	Belfast City Youth Council special Committee meeting
Date:	25th January 2022
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Grainne O'Hare, Community Development Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an agenda for the meeting between the Belfast City Youth Council (BCYC) and P&C Committee which takes place on 25th January 2022 and outline progress since the last meeting.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Note the update on the latest recruitment for Belfast City Youth Councilii. Note the update on the rebranding to become 'Belfast City Youth Council' in order to provide a better linkage and connection with Belfast City Council;iii. Note the update on nominations of Youth Champions from each Political Party in BCC;

3.0 Main report

Meeting Agenda

3.1 Item 1: Introductions and purpose of meeting

- To provide an update on the latest recruitment drive for Belfast City Youth Council and welcome the new members
- To provide an update on the recent rebranding from Belfast Youth Forum to Belfast City Youth Council and the celebration event which was agreed at the special joint People and communities and Belfast City Youth Forum meeting in June 2021
- To provide an update on the recommendation that each Political Party in Belfast City Council nominate a 'Youth Champion' who can liaise with Belfast Youth Forum on motions and matters relating to youth in the city as a mechanism to aid communication between Elected Members and BCYC members;
- To hear from several new members of the Belfast City Youth Council on their experiences so far and what they hope to achieve in their 2 year term.

3.2 Item 2: Recruitment update

Following the recent recruitment drive for Belfast City Youth Council, members are asked to note the following:

- 50 applications were initially received following an Expression of Interest exercise which was widely publicised throughout the city. These 50 applications covered the following DEAs:

Balmoral	4
Court	4
Lisnasharragh	5
Collin	4
Old Park	8
Black Mountain	5
Ormiston	6
Titanic	5
Botanic	6
Castle	3

- Regular social media posts promoting the recruitment drive were pushed by both BCC and BCYC, an Eshot was sent to all on BCYC mailing list and specific contact was also made either by email or telephone to the following groups / organisations in order to ensure there is a diverse range of applications, specifically from areas/groups which are traditionally underrepresented on the Youth Council. These included:

R City	EA Youth Service
Street Beat	NIYF
Shankill Alternatives	NICCY
North Belfast Alternatives	Extern
Common Youth	Volunteer Now
Transgender NI	All post primary schools
ACT Initiative	Belfast Met
Rainbow Project	Cara Friend

- Information on the recruitment was also distributed internally to colleagues within BCC who may know of any young people, youth workers or youth groups in Belfast who may be interested. These included:
 - Community Services Unit Managers, CDOs and ACDOs
 - Good Relations
 - Peace IV
 - Neighbourhood Integration Managers
 - Richard McLernon (FAO Belfast Climate Commission Youth Subgroup)
- Information on the recruitment also featured in:
 - Interlink
 - Your Say Belfast
 - Press Release on 20th Sep
 - Community NI
 - Be Collective Platform with Volunteer Now
- The Corporate Communications Team compiled a range of short videos, mainly for social media, and took a wide range of promotional photographs to promote BCYC. There were boosted posts on Facebook and age targeted advertisements on Belfast Live for 2 weeks to promote the recruitment drive.

All applicants were invited to attend an information session and subsequently a short informal interview over Microsoft Teams.

In total, 38 young people attended for an interview and were successful in obtaining a place on Belfast City Youth Council. The breakdown in relation to DEA's of these young people are as follows:

Balmoral	3
Court	3
Lisnasharragh	4
Collin	4
Old Park	6
Black Mountain	5
Ormiston	3
Titanic	2
Botanic	6
Castle	2

- BCYC members will be agreeing their new areas of new work over the coming months. It is also anticipated that they will carry on some work on the previous legacy campaigns such as 'Elephant in the Room' mental health research, 'Any Use?' research into RSE in Belfast and 'Minor Choices, Major Voices' research into the experiences of BAME young people in Belfast.

3.3

Item 3: Rebranding update

Members will recall that at June 2021's meeting, with the then Belfast Youth Forum, it was agreed that Belfast Youth Forum would rebrand to become 'Belfast City Youth Council'. At this meeting it was agreed that the benefit of this rebranding had the potential to make the group's position at a city level more distinct and would provide a better linkage and connection with Belfast City Council.

This rebranding has taken place under the guidance of Corporate Communications team. New logos and social media graphics and handles have been created and are now in operation. This was promoted on both the BCC and BCYC social media platforms, on interlink, in City Matters and in a press release which featured the rebranding and the recruitment campaign. Any branded merchandise, communications and published reports going forward will feature the new graphics.

	<p>It was also agreed in June 2021's meeting that a celebration event would be held for new and previous Youth Council members and their families to celebrate the rebranding and to welcome the new members. Due to current legislation around social distancing for CoVid-19 and the limited use of some of the rooms in City Hall, it has not been possible to make any further arrangements on this at this time. Currently, the BCYC have use of the Reception Room once per month for campaign work and will hold their Youth Council meetings, which would have previously been held in the BCC Chamber, over Microsoft Teams. This arrangement is in place for all of 2022 or until CoVid-19 restrictions are relaxed.</p> <p>3.4 Item 4: Youth Champions Members will recall that at June 2021's meeting, it was agreed that there was potential to improve communications and co-operation between Councillors, Officers and Belfast City Youth Council and that this could be done via the nomination of one representative from each political party to take a leadership role in working and engaging with the Youth Forum on issues and/or motions which relate to young people. At that time, the Neighbourhood Services Manager agreed to progress this through the Party Leader group. Unfortunately, due to sickness absence, this has not been progressed as yet. This will be progressed as soon as the NSM returns or will be followed up by an appropriate NSM designate.</p> <p>3.5 Item 6: Any Other Business Several new BCYC members will provide a short synopsis of themselves, why they applied to join Belfast City Youth Council and what they hope to achieve in their 2 year term.</p> <p>3.6 Financial & Resource Implications There are no financial or resource implications.</p> <p>3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment There are no equality or good relations implications. No rural needs assessment is needed.</p>
4.0	Appendices
4.1	N/A