
TITLE: Draft East Cambridgeshire Youth Strategy and Action Plan

Committee: Operational Services

Date: Monday 22nd March 2021

Authors: Lewis Bage, Communities and Partnerships Manager; Liz Knox, Environmental Services Manager; Angela Parmenter, Housing and Community Advice Manager

[V155]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To note and approve the Draft East Cambridgeshire Youth Strategy and Action Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) Approve the Draft East Cambridgeshire Youth Strategy;
- (ii) Approve the East Cambridgeshire Youth Action Plan, and;
- (iii) Note progress made against the Action Plan at this Committee at a later date

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Draft East Cambridgeshire Youth Strategy endeavors to ensure that young people in East Cambridgeshire are engaged and contributing to local decisions that may affect them so that they are connected, healthy, safe, respected and are aware of the support and resources available to them to maximise their potential.

3.2 The Strategy has been informed following extensive engagement with local young people, voluntary and statutory agencies, community groups and organisations currently accessed by young people. This has enabled Officers to understand the issues, needs, aspirations and desires of the youths in East Cambridgeshire. The organisations consulted overwhelmingly welcomed the opportunity to input into the development of the strategy and recognised the importance of the work.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/OPTIONS

4.1 The consultation findings identified a number of common themes that are of importance to or affecting youths across East Cambridgeshire, including engagement, travel, safety, spaces and activities, health, education and careers.

4.2 The Strategy identifies examples of work currently being done to address the issues identified by local young people. From this, gaps can be identified and services can be reviewed to ensure that they are being utilized as effectively as possible to ensure that our young people have the services and resources they require to thrive.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Following engagement with young people and stakeholders, plus the mapping exercises conducted as part of the development of this strategy, it is clear that there is a breadth of work being done by a wide range of agencies, both voluntary and statutory, seeking to address the matters identified by the district's young people.
- 5.2 The Council recognises that even with these existing efforts and current provisions in place, the issues faced by young people continue to evolve, especially as the district responds and recovers from the impacts of COVID-19.
- 5.3 To add value to existing efforts and to ensure that the Council is doing all that it can for the district's young people during these challenging and changing times, an Action Plan (Appendix ii) has been developed that aligns with the themes identified within the strategy. Within the Council's Action Plan are actions to support multi-agency initiatives and approaches to address issues outlined within the strategy which seek to add value to the work that the Council is proposing to undertake. This allows an information sharing and multi-agency approach to implementing and progressing the strategy.
- 5.4 As at 2.1 iii of this report it is proposed that progress on the Action Plan be reported to this Committee at a later date.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report's recommendations.

7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix i – Draft East Cambridgeshire Youth Strategy
Appendix ii – Draft East Cambridgeshire Youth Action Plan
Appendix iii – EIA
Appendix iv – CIA

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
	The Grange	Lewis Bage Communities and Partnerships Manager lewis.bage@eastcambs.gov.uk Liz Knox Environmental Services Manager Liz.knox@eastcambs.gov.uk Angela Parmenter Angela.parmenter@eastcambs.gov.uk 01353 665555