

Date of Meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2008
Title of Report	Youth Strategy 2007- 2009
Portfolio	Leisure and Economy
Link to Corporate Priorities	Leisure and Economy
Key Decision	No
Executive Workplan Ref	B323
Public Report	YES

**Summary of Report**

**This report seeks approval from the Executive for the Youth Strategy 2007-09.**

**The Youth strategy sets out the approach the Council should take to continuing its commitment to listen to and value the voices of local young people as well as providing a framework in which to respond to their needs.**

**As a statutory partner on the Wiltshire Children’s Trust, the Council has a responsibility to work in partnership with other providers to ensure the successful delivery of the Wiltshire Children’s Plan 2006-2009. The proposed Youth Strategy sets out the areas in which the Council can support this work through the delivery of its own services.**

**Officer Recommendations**

**It is recommended:**

**That the Executive approves the Youth Strategy 2007-09**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the Executive for the proposed Youth Strategy 2007-09. (attached Appendix 1)
- 1.2 Appendix 1 has been produced in response to comments set out by Overview & Scrutiny Sept 2007. The amended Youth Strategy incorporates the advice set out, namely the demonstration of links to other strategies and the development of a supporting action plan.

## **2. Options and Options Appraisal**

### **2.1 Option 1: That the Executive approves the Youth Strategy 2007-09**

- 2.1.1 The Corporate Plan sets out an ambition to “create vibrant, diverse and healthy communities living in a clean and safe environment.” To achieve this requires the Council to put customers at the heart of everything we do, and the Corporate Plan recognises young people as a customer of the Council and the need to listen to and involve them.
- 2.1.2 Adopting the Youth Strategy will provide the framework in which to ensure a co-ordinated approach to working with young people is embedded across the Council. It will also ensure that the Council continues with the positive work it has developed in this area providing a clear link with how the Council meets its responsibilities in regards to the Wiltshire Children’s Trust.

### **2.2 Option 2: That the Executive proposes an alternative approach to option 1**

## **3. Background Information**

- 3.1 The Council as part of its approach to promoting vibrant, safe inclusive communities and putting customers at the “heart of everything we do”, has worked in partnership with young people across the district by listening to their views and establishing robust consultation mechanisms.
- 3.2 As part of this work the Council has supported the development of the North Wiltshire Young Peoples’ Council (YPC), a group of young people across the district who work with the Council and act as a consultative body. The establishment of the YPC has led to the delivery of 3 successful youth conferences and a range of local projects in which young people and decision makers have been able to work together tackling the key issues such as:
  - Negative perceptions of young people
  - Isolation & boredom
  - A high fear of crime
  - Things to do, places to go
- 3.3 The Youth strategy sets out the approach the Council should take to continuing its commitment to listen to, and value the voices of local young people as well as providing a framework in which to respond to their needs.
- 3.4 As a statutory partner on the Wiltshire Children’s Trust, the Council has a responsibility to work in partnership with other providers to ensure the successful delivery of the Wiltshire Children’s Plan 2006-2009. The proposed Youth Strategy sets out the areas in which the Council can support this work through the delivery of its own services.

3.5 The Youth Strategy will be a key policy in shaping the work the Council undertakes with Young People. In the recent play strategy “Everything to Play for” the Youth strategy is identified as a key policy document as it provides the platform in which to develop services and activities for young people locally. By embedding the Every Child Matters outcomes ensures the Council will have a consistent and co-ordinated approach to working with young people across the district, be it through consultation, involvement in service and policy development or through the delivery of targeted projects.

#### **4. Areas addressed by the Youth Strategy**

4.1 The Youth Strategy has been drawn together using both the needs of local young people communicated through consultation and has taken into account the key strategies regarding service provision for Children and Young People. In particular this has focused on the requirements of “Every Child Matters” and the Councils responsibilities as a partner of the Wiltshire Children’s Trust Board.

4.2 Every Child Matters requires each area to have in place a Children’s Trust along with a Children’s Plan setting out how services can ensure the successful delivery of the following outcomes for Children and Young People:

- Be healthy
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Enjoy and achieve
- Staying safe
- Achieve Economic wellbeing

4.3 The Youth Strategy sets out through a pledge to young people what they can expect from the Council.

- We will make North Wiltshire a place that’s safe and healthy for young people to live in
- We want young people to have access to a range of activities and places to go
- We want young people to have opportunities to get involved in your local community, in local democracy and know what is said will be valued and have an impact on service development and delivery
- We want young people to have a positive image and to be respected and have equality in the community
- We will make sure that our services and buildings are easy to access and suitable for young people

4.4 With this pledge in place the strategy sets out through action plans how the Council can work towards achieving the pledge and delivering in line with its responsibilities to the Children’s Trust.

#### **5. Community & Environmental Implications**

5.1 Partnership working provides opportunities to strengthen consultation and service delivery, which enables the needs and priorities of the local community to be addressed. Recognising young people as part of the community and ensuring their

needs and priorities are integrated into consultation and service development work ensures that the Council can do this effectively.

## 6 Equality & Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The Council aims to ensure its services are accessible to all the communities within North Wiltshire. The Councils work with young people demonstrates a positive approach and commitment to achieving this ambition.

## 7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Although there are no direct financial implications arising from this report Members should be aware that there is a budget of £10,000 to support the involvement of young people which is used to support the delivery of the Young People's Council and associated youth involvement projects.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Appendix 1: North Wiltshire District Council Youth Strategy 2007-09</b></li></ul>
<b>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>NWDC Transitional Corporate Plan (to March 2009)</b></li><li>• <b>The Wiltshire Children's Plan 2006-09</b></li><li>• <b>Every Child Matters</b></li></ul>

### Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

<b>Report</b>	<b>Committee &amp; Date</b>	<b>Minute Reference</b>