

## Agenda Item No. 4

Title:	<b>Presentation of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee</b>
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee:	<b>Cllr Osborn</b>
Reporting Officer:	<b>Paul Mountford - Policy and Communications Services Manager</b>
Key decision:	<b>No</b>

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee concerning youth involvement in the Council.

### **Background**

At the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 17 October 2007, the portfolio holder for stronger and safer communities presented an update on partnerships, including the work being undertaken with the police and the Community Safety Partnership. Questions in particular were asked about how the Council was currently engaging with young people, and what the Council had been doing for local democracy week.

The Scrutiny Committee had previously requested that Cabinet look at the recommendations made to it by a youth development task and finish group in April 2007. These included enhancing the role of a youth champion, in particular through increased partnership working, improving consultation with young people, and ensuring that key council documents highlight the role that they can play within the council. At that time, it was agreed that the Council should work towards the recommendations laid out in the report.

### **Main issues**

#### ***Involvement in democratic processes***

The Scrutiny Committee noted that little had been done for local democracy week 2007, which ran from 15 October to 21 October. The Local Democracy campaign is about getting young people more aware of, and involved in, their local council. It aims to enable young people to be more involved in the work of their local councils, helping highlight young people's contribution to local decision making and the positive role they can play in their community. It was felt by the Committee that more could have been done to interest young people in the work of the Council both during the local democracy week and throughout the year.

### ***Outreach and communication***

The Council currently undertakes outreach and communication work with young people mainly on an ad hoc basis, for example through the Play Strategy. However, the Committee felt that more could be done in working with schools and youth clubs, and that this could be furthered and guided by a youth champion. The youth champion had previously provided an important link between the County Council, local schools and voluntary organisations, as well as with partnerships and other districts, and it was felt that the role could be re-established to help the Council engage more effectively with young people.

### **Effect on strategies and codes**

There are no direct implications from this report on strategies and codes.

### **Risk management implications**

There are no direct risk management implications.

### **Finance and performance implications**

There are no direct finance or performance implications.

### **Legal and human rights implications**

There are no direct legal and human right implications.

### **Recommendations**

Cabinet is asked to consider the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee as follows:

- To encourage greater take-up by youth in democratic processes of the council.
- To improve outreach and open up the council to young people and re-establish the role of the Youth Champion.

### **Background papers**

- Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee 17-10-07
- Report of the youth development task and finish group