



**REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES**  
**TO: COUNCIL FORUM**  
**ON: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

## **YOUTH MP – ENGAGEMENT WITH EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To recommend that the Youth MP and Deputy are appointed as a recognised observers at Executive Board.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

To allow the Youth MP and Deputy to sit at Executive Board (alongside members) as recognised observers, and ask questions on matters being considered in Part 1.

To authorise the Council's Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council believes that young people should have a 'say' about issues that affect them. All young people aged 11-18 can take part in the youth elections which elect the Youth MP and two deputies every year.

The Council has a long standing track record of youth engagement within the Borough and has had Youth MPs for a number of years. The consistently high turnout at youth elections over a number of years defines the wish of young people to engage and participate more in the democratic process.

Recently, Youth MPs have been able to submit to questions to the Executive Board and to build on the success of this initiative it is now proposed that the Youth MP and Deputy are invited to attend meetings of the Executive Board in a formal rather than casual observer capacity. The positions will not constitute a full membership of the Executive Board, nor will they replace any of the current portfolios, no will the positions have any voting rights within the decision making process.

### **4. RATIONALE**

The inclusion of the Youth MP and Deputy is to further promote the engagement of the democratically elected youth representatives into the Executive Board

process; following recent initiative whereby Youth MPs are entitled to ask questions at Executive Board meetings.

The Youth MP attends six regional meetings a year to put forward the issues that directly affect the young people of Blackburn with Darwen. From this they then take forward the issues to a national level where they can really start to make a difference as they are put in contact with all the key decision makers. By more closely engaging with the Executive Board this provides further means of engagement with local decision makers and the opportunity for them to gain a better perspective and insight into some of the work and detailed decisions needed to be taken by the Executive Board. However this is envisaged to be a two way process, where the Youth MP and Deputy can also offer valuable insight from a young persons perspective on a whole variety of issues, ensuring that the views of young people are embedded fully into our decision making process.

## **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This proposal is in line with Council policies to engage with young people and further promote democratic engagement within the Borough.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

In accordance with section 100A Local Government Act 1972 and the Access to Information Procedure Rules all members of the public must be excluded from meetings when matters containing confidential and exempt information are being considered (Part 2 items). The Youth MP and Deputy must therefore leave the meeting when Part 2 items are considered by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board Procedure Rules and other parts of the Constitution will need to be reviewed and any necessary amendments will need to be made.

**Linda Comstive**  
**Director of Legal Services**  
**20 October 2010**

Contact : Linda Comstive, Director of Legal Services (ext.5550).