

SUBJECT:	GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE ON HOW THEY ENGAGE WITH THE CITY OF LINCOLN COUNCIL
DIRECTORATE:	DEPARTMENT OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an overview of how the City of Lincoln Council has engaged with and sought to provide young people with a voice in the work that it carries out. As such it has been determined best to consider this question by reviewing the following:

1. How does CoLC currently involve young people in the work it does
2. How is CoLC looking at engaging young people with the work that we are doing in the future?
3. What is CoLC's role in supporting the work of other partner organisations in Lincoln in their work and how might this positively impact and provide benefits to young

1.2 Engaging with young people is important not only as part of our corporate and leadership responsibility in the city, but also because they are/will become the leaders, innovators, workforce and champions of Lincoln in the decades to come. By engaging with young people, understanding their aspirations and hopes for the future, and for seeking ways to reduce inequities and providing opportunities for all, it is believed that the Council's aspirations for inclusive economic growth can be greatly benefited. Furthermore, the review carried out by this committee will help to shape the ways in which we improve our engagement with young people in Lincoln, to the betterment of both.

1.3 As such, engaging with young people, giving them a voice in the work that the council does and by finding ways of integrating their views in informing our work, helps us to ensure we have a more inclusive Council, and one that is responsive to the needs of the city's younger residents. Giving young people a voice ensures that as a part of civic society, the decisions that are being made on their behalf, are done so in conjunction with them, and not simply to them. Additionally, young people offer the council a fantastic resource that could help us achieve many of our aspirations, including reducing inequalities in the city, realising our growth ambitions, and achieving our aspirations of being net zero carbon by 2030.

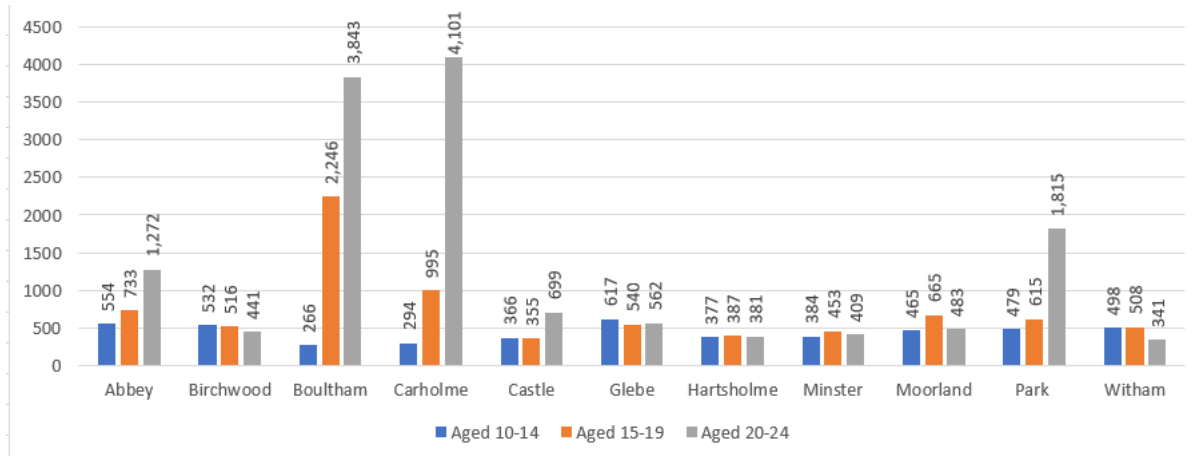
1.4 Table 1 provides an overview of the breakdown of the City's population demographics throughout the eleven wards. The data highlights that Lincoln is a city with a large quantity of young residents. Indeed 38% of the overall population of

Lincoln (100,049) are under the age of 25. This illustrates just how important it is that we continue to improve and develop ways of representing and seeking the views of this important section of Lincoln's resident population.

	Aged 0-4	Aged 5-9	Aged 10-14	Aged 15-19	Aged 20-24	Aged 25-29	Aged 30-34	Aged 35-39	Aged 40-44	Aged 45-49	Aged 50-54	Aged 55-59	Aged 60-64	Aged 65-69	Aged 70-74	Aged 75-79	Aged 80-84	Aged 85+
Abbey	578	649	554	733	1,272	1,163	989	881	655	624	534	596	435	315	233	175	128	150
Birchwood	618	634	532	516	441	647	612	588	451	445	512	543	436	430	423	313	179	130
Boultham	369	285	266	2,246	3,843	929	527	444	323	356	427	436	335	328	320	199	149	150
Carholme	346	362	294	995	4,101	870	577	500	405	414	396	460	357	335	303	180	137	158
Castle	412	375	366	355	699	526	524	483	349	386	446	475	426	310	317	262	176	230
Glebe	610	676	617	540	562	616	560	559	528	500	566	576	437	405	427	271	222	184
Hartsholme	398	419	377	387	381	491	478	475	402	449	532	524	529	492	524	314	269	384
Minster	437	463	384	453	409	478	423	434	371	383	423	513	438	382	408	295	200	271
Moorland	482	522	465	665	483	450	461	425	432	455	483	549	437	404	399	305	286	211
Park	644	569	479	615	1,815	1,313	1,067	826	655	604	624	557	416	301	219	191	136	229
Witham	416	523	498	508	341	390	371	472	482	489	566	590	473	454	454	272	184	193
Total	5310	5477	4832	8013	14,347	7,873	6589	6087	5053	5105	5509	5819	4719	4156	4027	2777	2066	2290

Table 1: Breakdown of age groups throughout Lincoln

1.5 Table 2 shows where the 37,979 young people aged 24 and under, live across Lincoln. As expected, there is a relatively even spread amongst the specific age brackets of 10-14 and 15-19, there are disproportionality large numbers of young people aged 20-24 living in Boultham, Carholme and Park wards (reflecting the location of the further and higher education facilities and the associated accommodation provision). This distribution is helpful when looking at and considering facilities, projects and schemes that support young people.



2. How does the Council engage with young people in the work that it carries out?

2.1 City of Lincoln Council has engaged with young people in a range of areas, and Table 3 provides an overview of this work in recent years, including the variety of ways in which the Council has sought to include young people in decision making and on specific projects and schemes undertaken by the Council which specifically might affect them. Furthermore, the council has used its social value policy to promote opportunities in key sectors, including construction, to school age people in the city.

Corporate area	Project	Means of engaging young people
Sustainability	Climate Commission	The Climate Commission's research subgroup sought a young person from the community, to act as its vice chair. This was seen as a way of engaging young people in the on-going work of the commission, as

		well as offering an opportunity for them to develop a range of skills.
Sustainability	Climate Commission	Established a network with the University of Lincoln Geography department to enable students to partake in placements with the climate commission. This provided them the opportunity to work on a specific programme of works that could be used to gain credits towards their degree programme. In the academic year 19/20 we had 3 placement students and in 20/21 there are 4 students involved in this scheme.
Sustainability	Climate Commission	Regularly consult with Lincolnshire Youth Council and other youth groups on the content of the Lincoln 2030 Climate Action Plan.
Sustainability	Climate Commission	Through the climate commission the Council's Climate Change Manager provides support to schools delivering climate action days.
Sustainability	Climate Commission	Let's Go Zero initiative works with schools to help them sign up to the net zero campaign.
Economic Growth	Western Growth Corridor (WGC) sustainable urban extension	As part of the public consultations, CoLC held an event at the Think Tank that was specifically aimed at young people and students in the city. This provided them with the opportunity to offer their views on the WGC proposals. these views were incorporated into the development of the masterplan.
Economic Growth	Lincoln Transport Hub	School visits were provided as part of the social value output of the scheme. Willmott Dixon, our contractors led these visits with the aim of providing school students with advice on careers in construction.
Economic Growth	Apprenticeship Scheme	The CoLC has a successful apprenticeship scheme which has been in place for over 25 years. This has provided opportunities across the organisation for young people in Lincoln to gain qualifications, experiences and to develop their careers.
Economic Growth	Student Placements	We have offered a range of student placements throughout the Council. These have provided students and residents in Lincoln with the opportunity to undertake a period of work placement in areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning Policy - Development Management - Economic Growth & Regeneration Sustainability
Economic Growth	The Network	COLC funded The Network (The Network – Careers advice, guidance and support for

		16-24 year olds in Lincoln (networklincoln.co.uk) for 5 years (ends 31.12.21), which is based in City Hall and provides careers advice to young people in Lincoln. Cllr Sue Burke and Martin Walmsley, Head of Shared Revenues and Benefits, attend The Network Management Board meetings.
Economic Growth	Kickstart Scheme	City of Lincoln Council helps to promote the Kickstart Scheme which provides funding to employers to create a jobs for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit.
Economic Growth	Council Tax Care Leavers Exemption	Council Tax care leavers exemption in place About Council Tax Support – City of Lincoln Council (Amendments made in 2020 mean that care leavers exemption extended to 100% for up to 25 years of age)
Community	Board of Governors	The Chief Executive of the Council is on the board of governors at Bishop King Primary School in Sincil Bank. This is part of a corporate commitment to improving the wider Sincil Bank area.
Community	Citizens Panel	CoLC Policy Team distribute a regular survey through its Citizens Panel which seeks to represent all demographics in the City. The Citizens Panel has a representative sample of young people in the city and is used as a means to ask a range of questions about council services to projects and key issues facing the city.
Community	Neighbourhood Teams	In our previous work across the city, engaging with young people has been one of the key work streams for the Neighbourhood teams. This has included development of youth groups and engaging young people to influence the bid for funds to develop the Showroom.
Community	Sincil Bank Neighbourhood Team	The Sincil Bank Neighbourhood Team have built positive relationships with primary schools in the area and have provided support in terms of directly funding projects and connecting to work in the rea. Projects have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Photography Award delivered by University of Lincoln and funded by CoLC. Involved pupils from Bishop King and St. Peter at Gowts Primary Schools taking photographs of local and global environmental issues, resulted in an exhibition being held in

		which pupils had the opportunity to discuss these issues the Mayor and elected members of the Council
Community	Young Person Advocate	Cllr Mair acts as the CoLC's Young Person Advocate. In this role she advocates on behalf of, and promotes issues concerning young people in the City. An annual report is produced to describe work carried out in that year.

Table 3: Examples of how City of Lincoln Council has engaged young people with its work

2.3 The Council actively seeks to include the voice of young people in the work that it carries out across a range of service areas including the development of the Lincoln 2030 Climate Action Plan. It is important that we continue to develop, improve and support the inclusion of young people in the work of the Council to not only incorporate the views and ambitions of young people in this work, but to also ensure that they feel a part of it.

3. Strategies for engaging young people in the work of the Council in the future

3.1 It remains a key aspiration to increase these efforts and to ensure new and innovative ways to engage with young people and ensure that their voices and ideas are used to inform Council policy initiatives in the future. Table 4 provides an overview of some of the ways in which the Council will be engaging with young people in Lincoln over the next year.

3.2

Corporate area	Project	Means of engaging young people
Housing	Rookery Lane	School visits will be carried out as part of the social value output of the scheme. These will be used as an opportunity for the contractor to promote a range of construction related professions to school aged children in the local area.
Housing	World of Work	Housing repairs services assistant director is developing a World of Work event in which young people are introduced to the work opportunities available in this area of the Council.
Economic Growth	Spark Engineering Event 2022	Spark Engineering Event 2022 is focussed on sustainable energy and manufacturing, which will provide opportunities for young people to see the vast opportunities available to them in these sectors. Also, an opportunity to link people with employers in the city.
Economic Growth	GLLEP World of Work	Established by the GLLEP & LCC as businesses have found it hard to recruit young people in the County. The initiative signposts young people to opportunities in a range of careers in the area. CoLC could be more

		involved in this initiative, by establishing links to this within the City. The World of Work Greater Lincolnshire LEP > Discover your career choices
Economic Growth	Innovation Festival Week (Connected to Spark Engineering Festival)	A new initiative to develop a weeklong programme of events and sessions aimed at inspiring young people about the wide-range of career, business and employment opportunities available across the area.
Economic Growth	Develop skills, training and employment opportunities	Head of Shared Revenues and Benefits service at CoLC intends to continue to work with The Network, DWP, Lincoln College and other partners to look for skills, training and employment opportunities for young people throughout Lincoln.
Community	Citizens Panel	Looking at ways in which we can expand the representation of young people on the existing Citizen Panel. This will provide a tried and tested means for the Council to ascertain the views of young people on the work of the Council, the development of projects and other important issues facing Lincoln.
Community	Youth Citizen Panel	The Chief Executive of the Council is keen to scope out how we could establish a Youth Citizen Panel, to focus on young people (specifically school aged people) and ask questions relevant to this age group.
Community	Lincolnshire Youth Council	Keen to scope out ways that we might better seek out and engage school aged people in Lincoln to partake in the Lincolnshire Youth Council. Presently the representation of young people in Lincoln on the Youth Council could be improved upon.
Community	National Lottery Fund – Platinum Jubilee Funding Programme	The CoLC’s Sincil Bank Neighbourhood Team are working with partners to develop an application to support youth work in Sincil Bank. This will seek to involve the YMCA, Energize and the Lincoln Foundation.

Table 4: Projects and initiatives expected to be delivered in the future

3.3 Despite some success over recent years in consulting young people with the work of the Council, it is imperative that we can find new ways in which to reach this demographic. We have tended to focus on our traditional ways of engaging with people and whilst this may have some successes for some age groups, it is likely to be less successful when intending to reach people who engage with the world in different ways. Furthermore, we need to develop a way of quantifying our engagement with younger people, as this would in the first instance provide us with a benchmark from which to build our engagement. Secondly, it would provide us with a range of useful data that could be used to support our work and its promotion

throughout the city. There are opportunities available to us to use digital technology as a means to find different routes of engagement with younger demographics in the city and this is something that could be explored.

- 3.4** By finding ways to give young people a voice in the work that we carry out it is believed that it would be possible to create a city that is more responsive to the needs and ambitions of young people. By engaging more thoroughly with our young residents, this will undoubtedly improve and add value to the services and projects that we deliver, including such things as how we approach planning policy, high street renewal for instance and movement strategies in Lincoln and its wider area. In this context we could utilise the voice and aspiration of young people to develop the kind of housing typologies they wish to see, as well as the type of integrated transport systems that would help them to be connected to their communities, places of work and the city centre. This is important as it could transform our growth agenda and ensure that we can develop a city that is truly responsive to the needs of those young people in Lincoln, who we want to remain as the employees, innovators and entrepreneurs of the future.

4. What is CoLC's role in supporting the work of other partner organisations in Lincoln

- 4.1** CoLC has a key role to play in supporting partner organisations in Lincoln in their wider efforts to provide benefits to young people in the City. This would provide a much more holistic offer to young people in Lincoln, enabling a more joined up approach to how organisations support young people and develop projects and initiatives in their interests. Furthermore, CoLC needs to work with existing groups and projects to ensure that these can have a greater reach and impact.
- 4.2** We are already working with a number of organisations locally who are committed to developing these further so that we improve the opportunities available to young people in Lincoln and enable them to achieve their dreams and ambitions in Lincoln. This would have direct benefits to our economic growth ambitions and continue the development of Lincoln as a modern, inclusive and vibrant city.
- 4.3** The CoLC can support partnership organisations in a range of ways, including through promotion, partnership working and accessing potential funding. We have a strong history of working in partnership with organisations in the City in other areas, so it is proposed that we develop this further in the area of youth engagement and representation.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1** The Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

Is this a key decision? No

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? None

List of Background Papers: None

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