

	REPORT TO CABINET TO BE HELD ON 12 MARCH 2019
	Key Decision YES Forward Plan Ref No 32
Corporate Aims People/Place	Cabinet Portfolio Holder Cllr Sandra Turner – Portfolio Holder for Communities

REPORT OF: Director (LD) 19/067

WARDS AFFECTED: All

**SUBJECT: BOROUGH YOUNG PEOPLE'S ECO-CHAMPIONS
SCHEME**

RECOMMENDATION (S):

That Cabinet approve the introduction of a Eco-Champions Scheme for Schools, Colleges and Youth Organisations in the Borough

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

To provide recognition for the good work being undertaken and enthusiasm shown by the Borough's children and Young People for environmental issues

To support the Council's Sustainability Objectives

HIGHLIGHTED RISKS:

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Since April 2016, the Council has run a number of Young People's events, including Schools Councils and debates, with the aims of improving Youth Engagement, encouraging young people to become interested in democracy and providing a broader understanding of the role that Councillors play in the community. The events also aim to help the students to:

- Develop public speaking skills
- Develop confidence
- Encourage listening to the views of others

- 1.2 A recurring theme across all the events has been the keen interest shown by the children and young people in matters relating to the environment, including issues relating to single use plastics, recycling, litter, etc.
- 1.3 The opportunity to build on this enthusiasm, linked to the recent Council decision to approved a motion to declare a Climate Change Emergency, and the work undertaken in respect of Single Use Plastics, has led to the proposal to introduce a Eco-Champions scheme for schools, colleges and youth organisations in the Borough. The aim of the Scheme is to recognise and reward the good work taking place across the Borough by our children and young people in supporting the principles of environmental sustainability.

2. CORPORATE AIMS

- 2.1 The introduction of the Borough Schools' Eco-Champs Scheme will support the Council's Aims of Place and People as follows:

Place: To protect and improve our environment, now and for the future - We aim to be a Place where we have:

- Clean, well maintained and managed streets, parks and open spaces
- Environmental Sustainability, through means including reducing carbon emissions and effective waste management, with high levels of recycling

People: To have a safe, happy, healthy population, with people who feel valued and included - We aim to have to be a place where:

- There are high levels of participation in local democracy, community action and volunteering

3. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 3.1 As stated previously, since 2016 the Council has run a number of events including Schools Council meetings and Young Peoples' Debate events, with a view to improving youth engagement and encouraging the involvement of children and young people in democracy in the Borough.
- 3.2 As part of the events, the children and young people have given presentations to Cabinet Members on a range of issues, including ideas for the Queen's 90th Birthday party, the Great British Spring Clean, increasing Youth Participation in Democracy, and Reducing the Use of Single Use Plastics in the Borough. To support the debates, consultation exercises have been undertaken to determine young people's priorities and concerns for the future.
- 3.3 What has emerged as a key issue throughout these events and consultation exercises is the passion and concern that young people have for their environment.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation with children and young people has taken place through the on-going programme of events which has taken place.

5. ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The success of the events which have taken place presents an opportunity to build on the good work and enthusiasm shown by the young people. This also links to the recent decision by the Council to support the motion to declare a Climate Emergency and the on-going work on reducing the use of single use plastics in the Borough.

- 5.2 It is therefore proposed to introduce an Eco-Champions scheme in recognition and support of work being undertaken by young people within the Borough. The scheme developed would be fairly simple to introduce and operate, but would reflect the commitment of the Council to protecting and improving our environment and mitigating climate change.

- 5.3 As part of the scheme, Schools will be asked to commit to the following pledge:

“We pledge to do our best to help our environment for our future. We will do our best to reduce, reuse and recycle and encourage others to follow our example”

- 5.4 The basic principles of the scheme are as follows:

- There are three levels which can be achieved, ie, Bronze, Silver and Gold, to ensure that there is a suitable level for every school/organisation wishing to be more environmentally friendly, from taking the first steps towards environmental improvement to becoming a full eco champion. Full details of the criteria to be met to achieve each award are attached at appendix 1.
- Schools/organisations will be asked to complete a short form in January to provide details of interim progress against their chosen level and what they intends to do over the coming months to achieve the accreditation.
- At the end of the year, schools will complete a review form which covers everything that they have successfully completed. Supportive evidence including photo and videos of Eco Champions at work can be provided and will be posted on the Council’s website.
- In addition to the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, a Platinum Award will be presented annually to the overall winner of our Borough Eco Champions Trophy.
- The Eco-Champions Trophy will be awarded to the group considered by the Mayor and Member Sustainability Champion to have made an outstanding contribution to the environment or shown outstanding commitment to environmental sustainability.

5.5 It is proposed that there will be an annual presentation event in June, at which the Mayor of the Borough of Scarborough will award each school/organisation with their bronze, silver or gold accreditation.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy,

This proposal supports the Council's Environmental Sustainability Policy, and the Declaration on Climate Change.

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Financial Implications

There will be costs incurred in printing certificates and a trophy but these are minimal.

6.4 Equalities and Diversity,

None

6.5 Communications

This initiative will be publicised through the Council's website, social media, and press releases. All schools in the Borough will be contacted.

6.6 Environmental implications

This initiative will support the Council's environmental policies.

6.7 Staffing Implications, Planning Implications, Crime and Disorder Implications, Health and Safety implications have been considered and do not apply.



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Background Papers:

None

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT OR WISH TO INSPECT ANY OF THE BACKGROUND PAPERS, PLEASE CONTACT THE AUTHOR.

Risk Matrix

Risk Ref	Date	Risk	Consequences	Mitigation	Current Risk Score	Target Score	Service Unit Manager/ Responsible Officer	Action Plan
1	March 2019	Council does not make progress towards its Sustainability Objectives	Corporate Plan Aims are not achieved	Scheme helps raise awareness of sustainability issues and Council's policies	B3	A3	Performance and Admin Manager	

Glossary of Terms

Risk	An event which may prevent the Council achieving its objectives
Consequences	The outcome if the risk materialised
Mitigation	The processes and procedures that are in place to reduce the risk
Current Risk Score	The likelihood and impact score with the current mitigation measures in place
Target Risk Score	The likelihood and impact score that the Council is aiming to achieve
Service Unit Manager	The Service Unit or Officer responsible for managing the risk
Action Plan	The proposed actions to be implemented in order to reduce the risk to the target score

Risk Scoring

Impact	5					
	4					
	3					
	2					
	1					
			A	B	C	D
		Likelihood				

Likelihood:

A = Very Low
 B = Not Likely
 C = Likely
 D = Very Likely
 E = Almost Certain

Impact

1 = Low
 2 = Minor
 3 = Medium
 4 = Major
 5 = Disaster