

Public Report
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 06 July 2022

Report Title

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough Wide

Report Summary

The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) is a national initiative where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management/leadership roles. As part of RMBC's commitment to the CCTOC, each year with the exception of last year due to Covid the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people.

The Children's Commissioner's Takeover held on 16 March 2022 was Chaired by Josie Brown, Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

RYC chose climate change as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it was one of the key priorities in their manifesto for 2022 and identified through consultation.

RYC realise that Climate Change is a threat to communities now and action is needed and the RYC realise that the issue of Climate Change spans further than saving the planet and is primarily about caring for people who live on the planet.

By resolving the issues of Climate Change this could solve many interconnecting issues e.g. public transport improvements (decarbonising means of travel), Youth participation in the democratic system (number of young people engaged at the heart of the climate change movement), journey to net zero revitalises jobs and industries.

A number of members of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet are members of the Regional Youth Climate Assembly (RECA) created in April 2020 during lockdown.

Members of the RYC attended the COP 26 conference.

The Rotherham Youth Cabinet now wish to focus more on a local level as they understand this is a huge part in tackling Climate Change on a holistic level so that Rotherham and its communities can accelerate the journey to net zero and use it as a catalyst for further social and political change.

Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

1. Receive the report and recommendations outlined in Appendix 1.
2. Agree that the report and recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for response.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Recommendations from the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change

Background Papers

Rotherham Youth Cabinet Manifesto 2020

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, 16th March 2022 - Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 16 March 2022

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Climate Change

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) is a national initiative where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management/leadership roles. As part of RMBC's commitment to the CCTOC, each year with the exception of last year due to Covid the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people.
- 1.2 The Children's Commissioner's Takeover held on 16 March 2022 was Chaired by Josie Brown, Rotherham Youth Cabinet. RYC chose climate change as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it was one of the key priorities in their manifesto for 2022 and identified through consultation.
- 1.3 RYC realise that Climate Change is a threat to communities now and action is needed and the RYC realise that the issue of Climate Change spans further than saving the planet and is primarily about caring for people who live on the planet.
- 1.4 By resolving the issues of Climate Change this could solve many interconnecting issues e.g. public transport improvements (focus on decarbonising means of travel), Youth participation in the democratic system (increasing number of young people engaged at the heart of the climate change movement), journey to net zero revitalises jobs and industries.
- 1.5 A number of members of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet are members of the Regional Youth Climate Assembly (RECA) created in April 2020 during lockdown.
- 1.6 Members of the RYC attended the COP 26 conference.
- 1.7 The Rotherham Youth Cabinet now wish to focus more on a local level as they understand this is a huge part in tackling Climate Change on a holistic level so that Rotherham and its communities can accelerate the journey to net zero and use it as a catalyst for further social and political change.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Appendix 1 sets out the recommendations following the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge held in March 2022.
- 2.2 A series of questions were put by members of the RYC to Council Officers covering a range of topics associated with Climate Change. The questions are set out below:
 - What is being done within schools and council buildings to reduce the amount of energy being used? How can this be reduced further?

- What is the plan to combat plastic pollution across Rotherham and how is local action promoted?
- Locally, how much waste is being recycled? How do you plan on improving this?
- Most schools do not have recycling facilities, what is the council doing to make recycling bins accessible for schools and is it possible to provide more recycling bins in streets and public spaces?
- How is the council encouraging schools and academies to have a consistent and dedicated climate curriculum and what plans do you have to improve climate education for young people across Rotherham, who is responsible for implementing these plans and by when?
- How do you plan on involving the wider community ie adults, in tackling climate change and how are you raising awareness about the need to recycle and how to recycle?
- How do you plan on involving the wider community ie adults, in tackling climate change and how are you raising awareness about the need to recycle and how to recycle?
- What action is taking place to improve the reliability, accessibility and affordability of public transport given the huge role it will play in decarbonising our travel?
- What has/is being done to improve the distribution of electric car charging points across Rotherham to ensure a smooth transition to net zero?
- What green jobs are available for young people to either take as a vocational pathway or being created in Rotherham?
- Can you explain what is being done in Rotherham to tackle the nature emergency and improve wildlife recovery?
- How is the council working with other groups and organisations to tackle the intersectional factors around climate change?
- Are there plans for schools and council buildings to have consistent approach to green technology such as solar panels?
- How are you ensuring that council houses are environmentally friendly and energy efficient?
- What consideration has been made to introducing alternatives to single use plastics in school canteens and public buildings, for example leisure centre vending machines, cafes etc

2.3 In light of the responses to the questions provided by Council Officers the Rotherham Youth Cabinet developed the recommendations contained in Appendix 1 specifically relating to Rotherham Borough. In summary these focus on:

- Enhanced action to reduce pollution and single-use plastics
- Strengthening inclusive engagement with young people on the climate and environment agenda for Rotherham including through the development of an Environmental Awards Scheme for Rotherham Schools
- Increased provision of carbon literacy training / awareness raising

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board recommend that the recommendations set out in Appendix 1 are supported.
- 3.2 That Cabinet are asked to respond to the recommendations set out in Appendix 1.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment and Children and Young People Services have been consulted with regards to the report and recommendations.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The report will go to Cabinet for a formal response on the recommendations.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 Consideration should be given to the procurement and financial implications arising from the report's recommendations as part of the Executive's response.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Consideration should be given to the legal implications arising from the report's recommendations as part of the Executive's response.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 Consideration should be given to the Human Resources advice and implications arising from the report's recommendations as part of the Executive's response.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board sought assurances that the implications for children and young people and vulnerable adults have been addressed.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Members have had regard to equalities and human rights implications when developing recommendations.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Consideration should be given to the implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate change arising from the report's recommendations as part of the Executive's response.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Consideration should be given to the implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate change arising from the report's recommendations as part of the Executive's response.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Members have regard to the risks and mitigation factors associated with the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge topic of Climate Change and have made recommendations accordingly.

Accountable Officer(s)

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