

## **ESSEX YOUNG PEOPLE'S DAY**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report recommends that the Council participate in the Essex Young People's Day 2000. This is a not a statutory responsibility for the Council.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 In July 1998, Essex County Council held a young people's day at County Hall. In view of the success of the event, the Association of Essex Councils (AEC) has agreed to sponsor a similar event on a date to be agreed in July 2000. The Council, together with all other local authorities in Essex, has been invited to play a role in this year's event.

### **3 ESSEX YOUNG PEOPLE'S DAY**

- 3.1 The event will be held on the first or second Monday in July and will provide an opportunity for young people aged 10-17 to have a voice on matters that are important to them. The themes for the day are personal safety; leisure; money and health information. The event is being organised as a means of addressing the difficulty of getting young people to participate in the democratic process.
- 3.2 A young people's forum has been set up to assist with the arrangements for the day. It has suggested that participation by this Council would involve officers and members attending the event to listen to the proceedings and to report back to the Council. In addition, there would be a requirement for the Council to "identify and enable" a group of young people to give a presentation as a talk, video, dance or drama. The Council could support a group of local young people jointly with the youth service or a school.
- 3.3 Although information about the precise nature of the event is still very limited, it would appear that the aim accords closely with this Council's previously stated policy of engaging young people in local issues. Subject to receiving further information there would appear to be merit in the Council agreeing in principle to become involved.

### **4 A WAY FORWARD**

- 4.1 The Chairman of Council has recently hosted a local citizenship day with pupils from local secondary schools. The day proved extremely successful and it is intended that discussions be held with secondary schools to arrange further such events under the auspices of the Chairman of the Council. The Council could invite the four secondary schools to nominate say between 4 and 6 pupils to participate in the proposed Essex Young People's day.

**5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The desire to engage young people in community events is a key aim of the Council's Community Safety strategy.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 In the absence of further information about the event, the principal costs to this Council would appear to be the officer time required to identify and facilitate the participation of a group of young people. Funding may be required to facilitate the young people making their presentation. There will also be costs associated with attending the event including the payment of Member allowances. It is anticipated that the total cost to the Council will be a maximum of £500 and this will be met from within existing budgets.

**7 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to resolve in principle to support the aims of the proposed Essex Young People's Day 2000 and, subject to further information being provided on what would be expected of this Council, to agree that the Council actively participate in the arrangements for the day. (HAMS).

Andrew Smith

Head of Administrative and Member Services

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**Background Papers:**

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