

THE ASSEMBLY

7 SEPTEMBER 2005

REPORT OF THE BAD YOUTH FORUM

Title: Report of the BAD Youth Forum	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>This is the regular report on the work of the BAD Youth Forum and summarises the activities of the meeting of the Youth Forum held in July 2005. The main points arising are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Development Framework and the Statement of Community Involvement – Groundwork East London ask young people how to consult with them• Anti-Social Behaviour – The Borough’s Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy 2005 / 2008.• Report of the Crime and Leisure Sub-Group and the Education and Environment Sub-Group.• Youth Achievement Awards• Summer Programme• Year End evaluation• Establishment and on going work of the 2005 / 2006 BAD Youth Forum – the first meeting will be held on Tuesday 18 October 2005 to coincide with Local Democracy Week.• Annual report to the Assembly – the Assembly is asked to consider receiving BAD Youth Forum annual reports after the last meeting of the Forum each year. <p>Wards Affected: None.</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Legal:</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Risk Management:</p> <p>None.</p>	

Social Inclusion and Diversity:

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a requirement on local authorities to make an assessment of the impact of new and revised policies in terms of race equality. Existing policies have already been subjected to impact assessments. This Authority has adopted an approach of extending the impact to cover gender, disability, sexuality, faith, age and community cohesion.

As this report does not concern a new or revised policy there are no specific adverse impacts insofar as this report is concerned.

Crime and Disorder:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a responsibility on local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of any proposals. There are no specific implications insofar as this report is concerned.

Recommendation

The Assembly is asked to consider receiving annual reports on the work of the BAD Youth Forum at the Assembly meeting following the last BAD Youth Forum meeting each year, and in so doing to amend the Council's Constitution.

Reason

To keep the Assembly informed of the activities of the BAD Youth Forum.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The final meeting of the 2004/05 Youth Forum was held on 19 July 2005. Certificates were issued recognising the young people's involvement in the Forum during the year.

2. Report Detail

2.1 Local Development Framework

The Council is required to draw up a Local Development Framework following a recent change to the planning system. This will cover everything from where to build houses to where shops, pubs and restaurants should be concentrated and will include a Statement of Community Involvement. This will set out how and when the Council will engage the community on planning issues.

Consultants / Representatives from Groundwork East London asked the young people for their ideas as to how best to consult and get their views about how their local area should be developed over the next 10 years. The suggestions put forward will be used to draw up the Statement of Community Involvement.

2.2 Anti-Social Behaviour

Young people were reassured that the Council continues to be committed to addressing anti social behaviour. The Borough's Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy 2005 / 2008 has now been drawn up and takes on board the concerns raised during public consultation last year which revealed, amongst other things, that anti-social behaviour was a main concern for young people.

2.3 Update from Sub-Groups

The outcomes of the final rounds of meetings of the sub-groups were reported as follows:

Crime and Leisure

- The group met with the Parks Development Officer to discuss plans for a Borough wide mini Olympics in the summer holidays and a skate park at Castle Green Park (which opened on 27 July 2005).
- Feedback from a questionnaire the group had drawn up to seek the views of other young people about crime and safety was presented to Borough Commander Robin Hope during a visit to Dagenham Police Station.
- The plan to hand out 'stop and search' rights information cards to young people did not go ahead following the recent acts of terrorism.

Education and Environment

- The group met with the a representative from SHANKS and the Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator, Department of Regeneration and Environment (DRE) to prepare for a stall to educate the public about recycling and renewable energy on 'Big Green Borough Day' which took place during Sustainability Week in June.
- A petition against the use of non bio-degradable product wrapping has been prepared and will be submitted to the House of Commons.
- A Transport Consultant from DRE attended a meeting to discuss the Borough's Five Year Transport Strategy.
- The Chief Executive held a question and answer session where young people found out about plans for the borough and young people in the future.

2.4 Youth Achievement Awards

Several young people have achieved the accredited Youth Achievement (bronze) Award, three more are continuing to work towards this and four young people are now working towards their silver award.

2.5 Summer Programme

Young people will be participating in a residential visit to the Peak District in August.

2.6 Year End Evaluations

Evaluation of the work of the Forum 2004 / 2005 will be undertaken by the young people and fed back into the Summer programme with a view to implementing changes to make the Forum even better next year.

3. Establishment of the 2005 / 2006 BAD Youth Forum

- 3.1 Elections - The elections for the 2005 / 2006 Youth Forum will take place early September and the first meeting of the newly elected Youth Forum will be held to coincide with Local Democracy Week on Tuesday 18 October 2005 (and not on 13 October 2005 as stated in the Council diary).
- 3.2 Question and Answer Session – Consideration is being given to arranging a 'Question Time' style debate involving young people, Councillors, MPs, Transport for London and the Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police. The idea is to run this along the lines of a similar event organised in 2003, to be organised in conjunction with Local Democracy Week.
- 3.3 Review of leisure facilities - The new Forum will continue to work with the Youth Support and Development Service (YSDS) to develop / improve the Youth Organisations & Services for Young People within Barking and Dagenham Directory.
- 3.4 Intergenerational Project - Forum members will continue to support the Council's Intergenerational Project to bring young and older people together to promote contact and understanding.
- 3.5 Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) - The newly established Youth Forum will be asked to consider an invitation to regularly attend the Barking and Dagenham Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Social Cohesion Sub-Group meetings.
- 3.6 Greater London Authority (GLA) - An invitation from John Biggs to host a Forum meeting at the GLA headquarters in London will be also be considered.

4. Annual Report to the Assembly

- 4.1 The BAD Youth Forum is established each year to coincide with the academic year, i.e. September – 31 August. Up until now annual reports on the work of the Forum have been presented to the Council's Annual Assembly, which is held before the Forum has concluded its' annual programme of work, including any summer activities. Members are therefore asked to consider receiving annual reports of the BAD Youth Forum at the Assembly meeting at the October meetings of the Assembly, and to amend the Constitution accordingly.

Background Papers used in the Preparation of the Report:
Agendas and minutes of BAD Youth Forum meetings in 2004/05