

Briefing Note

Review of Youth Led Democracy 2022-23

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Background

Following an informal consultation with a range of stakeholders, draft proposals for changes to YCAB were discussed with young people, Peter Brown (Head of Democratic Services), Peter Taylor (Electoral Services Manager), Sharon Bridgalsingh (Director for Law and Governance) and Michael Bracey (Chief Executive).

We have now formalised our draft recommendations below after receiving further feedback from young people, Cabinet member and Youth Democracy Champion.

Indicative membership arrangements are set out in the Annex A and the recommended outline structure is in Annex B.

Recommendations

The structure of MKYCAB

1. MKYCAB should become Milton Keynes Youth Council (MKYC), but without significant changes to branding etc (for example only the letters on the logo will change). There is a suggestion that our new “city” status should be incorporated but we feel MKYC sounds and feels better than MKYCC.
2. MKYC will continue to have a rotating Chair and will meet monthly. The agenda for full MKYC meetings will be agreed in advance of the meeting by the Democratic Participation Officer, in consultation with the MKYC Chair, and Youth Mayor / Deputy Youth Mayor.
3. Core membership of MKYC should be based on 28 elected places (or co-opted, in the event of a vacancy and by-election) for secondary schools in Milton Keynes. The number of places allocated will be based on the school population (Annex A) and will be reviewed annually. We believe that in addition, there should be co-opted places for other groups (for example, those who are home schooled), and we will consult further with MKYCC after elections in February.
4. A Youth and Deputy Youth Mayor should be introduced with a 2-year term (deputy becomes Mayor after the 1st year). The Youth Mayor will have a limited Civic role but will be a more public face of MKYCC. We propose that initially the Youth Mayor is elected from the membership on MKYCC, but that we will consult more widely on a directly elected Youth Mayor, and on the introduction of a Youth Mayor’s budget.
5. In addition to MKYCC we propose to introduce a sub-group of MKYC, (Youth Executive, or Advisory Group), which is elected from the membership. This sub-group would comprise 6-8 members including the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor (who will chair the group) and meet every six weeks or so to feed views of young people on council plans and policies to Officers / CLT, Cabinet / Cabinet members and Council. Each member will have a portfolio or area of special interest. They will attend meetings such as Children and Young People’s Scrutiny and other decision-making meetings, as appropriate.

6. The maximum term for a MKYCC member should be 4 years (two terms, or part thereof). However, there will also be up to 12 co-opted mentoring roles agreed by selection panel comprising officers and some MKYCC members. To qualify, an applicant must not currently be a MKYC member and have previously served on MKYCC or a predecessor body (MKYCAB). Youth Council mentors may attend full Youth Council meetings and other meetings by invitation of the Chair of the relevant group. They may also be invited to assist with democratic participation events and initiatives (for example – attending school assemblies).

Elections

1. School elections should be in early February 2023 (and every second year thereafter) on a day (or days) agreed by MKSH.
2. To stand for election, a candidate should complete a nomination form which is subscribed (signed by) 10 pupils and endorsed by a teacher nominated by the school's leadership team.
3. Voting should be in person, following similar rules to local and parliamentary elections, utilising a register of pupils provided by the school, on polling day.
4. Candidates should be able to submit a 'personal statement / manifesto' of up to 200 words alongside their nomination papers, which will be placed on the Council's website (and the school's website, should they so wish) for school pupils / electors to consider prior to polling day. A support service will be offered to pupils who want to apply but are deterred by writing a manifesto.
5. The Council will provide guidance to prospective candidates and supporting materials for the school leadership team. They will also fix a date for an online briefing session for prospective candidates.
6. The number of resources allocated by the school in support of elections is discretionary, but we recommend that as a minimum, the schools will provide:
 - a) a designated area for polling;
 - b) a resource to sit alongside Democratic Services staff on polling day; and
 - c) a local framework for campaigning / awareness / debate, in the run up to polling day.

British Youth Council / Campaign Work

We note the strong and established links between the British Youth Council, Make Your Mark Ballots and local youth led democracy projects. Local campaign work has been popular and very well regarded by those young people who have participated. However, youth led democracy and youth campaign work are discreet areas of work and we feel there are opportunities to review this relationship in more detail.

1. The Council should continue its relationship with the British Youth Council and continue to nominate members of Youth Parliament. This will include schools participating in Make Your Mark Ballots on a voluntary basis, in the years that there are no Youth Council elections.
 2. Members of Youth Parliament serve a 2-year term and can be elected from the Youth Council. To qualify as a member of Youth Parliament a young person should ideally have previously held a leadership role but would not usually hold a leadership role whilst they are serving as a MYP. Youth Council mentors or elders will be eligible to be members of Youth Parliament. We do not elect MYPs that would attain the age of 19 before 18 months of the two-year term are up.
 3. Campaign work linked to Make Your Mark ballots should be less resource intensive and allow for broader participation than just Youth Council members. After elections we will explore and consult more widely on the arrangements for campaign work.
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Annex A – Indicative YCAB membership

Name	Quadrant	Type of school	NOR (yr 7-13)	First language not English 2020/2021	Free school meals eligibility 2020/2021	Latest ofsted	Ward	Y-CAB Places
St Paul's Catholic School	East	Maintained	1875	56.1	20.6	Good (Nov 19)	Woughton & Fishermead	2
The Hazeley Academy	West	Academy	1592	15.6	13.6	Good (Oct 18)	Loughton & Shenley	2
Denbigh School	West	Academy	1753	16.3	11	Good (Jan 19)	Loughton & Shenley	2
Shenley Brook End School	West	Academy	1875	16.9	15.4	Good (Sept 18)	Shenley Brook End	2
Walton High	East	Academy	2795	21.7	20	Good (Jan 18)	Monkston, and Broughton	4
Lord Grey Academy	South	Academy	1430	14.8	29	Good (May 22)	Bletchley West	2
Ousedale School	North	Academy	2204	6.1	9.1	Good (Jan 20)	Newport Pagnell South, and Olney	3
The Radcliffe School	West	Maintained	1215	16.3	24.1	Good (Jan 20)	Wolverton	2
Sir Herbert Leon Academy	South	Academy	556	30.5	52.6	Inadequate (May 22)	Bletchley East	1
Milton Keynes Academy	East	Academy	1243	42.8	41.3	Good (Oct 17)	Woughton & Fishermead	2
Glebe Farm all-through	East	Academy	120			N/a	Danesborough & Walton	0
Oakgrove School	East	Academy	1810	18.5	14.6	Good (June 19)	Broughton	2
Kents Hill Park all-through	East	Academy	567	22.7	26.2	N/a	Monkston	1
Stantonbury School	North	Academy	1533	No data available	No data available	N/a	Stantonbury	2
Watling Academy	West	Academy	481	15.6	18.9	N/a	Stony Stratford	1

Mainstream schools total 28

Co-opted places (TBC)

Indicative allocation 6

YCAB 'elders / mentors' 12

Co-opted total 18

TOTAL 46

Annex B – Recommended Outline Structure

