

COMMUNITY, WELLBEING AND PLACE COMMITTEE

4 August 2026

Extract of Minutes – Recommendations to Council

29	Youth Town Council Members considered a report regarding a proposal to re-establish the Stratford-upon-Avon Youth Town Council, which had ceased operating during 2023/24. The Town Clerk advised that the proposal had been brought forward by Councillors Cleeve and Hunter, who wished to explore the re-establishment of a Youth Town Council to encourage greater engagement with young people in local democracy and civic life. At the invitation of the Vice-Chair, Josh Turner addressed the Committee and spoke of his enthusiasm for the re-establishment of a Youth Town Council in Stratford-upon-Avon. He explained that a Youth Town Council would provide young people with a meaningful opportunity to have their voices heard, become involved in local decision-making, and contribute positively to the future of the town. Members thanked Mr Turner for his contribution and welcomed the insight he provided into the views and aspirations of younger residents. During discussion, Members sought clarification on the proposed membership, governance, involvement of local schools and youth organisations, and the potential resource and budget implications. It was noted that these matters would be considered in detail by a Working Group, which would develop proposals and report back to Council with recommendations. Members welcomed the proposal, recognising the importance of engaging young people in local democracy and providing opportunities for them to contribute to the future of the town while developing an understanding of local government and civic responsibility. Councillors Cleeve and Hunter were nominated to serve on the Working Group, alongside the Office Manager. It was agreed that membership of the Working Group also be offered to all Councillors. Members suggested holding a workshop at the Town Hall to engage with young people and gauge their interest in, and support for, the establishment of a Youth Town Council. Accordingly, it was unanimously
----	---

8. APPENDIX

	RECOMMENDED	That the principle of re-establishing a Stratford-upon-Avon Youth Town Council be supported and that a Working Group be established to investigate proposals for the re-establishment of a Youth Town Council That the Working Group report back to Council with detailed recommendations. (Councillors Cleeve and Hunter, Officer Manager and any other Town Councillor alongside youth representatives
30	Christmas Lights Switch-on Members considered a report seeking further financial support of £4,600 towards the Christmas Light Switch on Event which was organised by Stratford BID. At the invitation of the Vice-Chair, Mr Aaron Corsi, BID Manager, addressed the Committee and outlined the reasons for the request. He explained that the increased costs reflected the expanded event footprint, the enhanced security measures required to meet police requirements, and the rising costs of providing entertainment and delivering a safe and successful event. During discussion, Members sought further clarification regarding the increase in costs and whether there were any sponsorship opportunities. Having considered the report and the explanations provided, Members acknowledged the importance of the event to the town and agreed that the proposal should be supported and recommended to Council as an addition to the CIL funding previously approved for the event.	
	RECOMMENDED	That the further allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funding (£4,600) be approved to support the delivery of the Christmas Light Switch on 2026.