



**Meeting Date:** March 10, 2021

**Submitted by:** Scott Mairs – Director, Community Services

**Report No:** CMS-03-2021

**Subject:** Community Services Youth Advisory Committee

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**Recommendation:**

THAT the creation of a Youth Advisory Committee of Council be approved;

AND THAT the Terms of Reference for the committee, as appended to Report CMS-03-2021 be approved;

AND THAT Council select a council representative to sit on the committee;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to move forward with seeking nominations from local youth to fill vacant seats.

**Purpose:**

To seek Council approval in establishing a Youth Advisory Committee.

**Background:**

The Community Services Department currently has an active Advisory Committee to provide a forum for citizen participation and consultation where the municipality can benefit from its citizens' different points of view. Although this committee has been instrumental in the success of the department, it has been noted that the establishment of a Youth Advisory Committee would be beneficial to ensure the needs of youth in Middlesex Centre are being met.

A Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is a group of young people that provides meaningful input into the decision-making process of youth living, working or recreating in Middlesex Centre. A YAC gives young people the opportunity to express their views and have their voices heard on topics that are important to them.

**Analysis:**

Creating a YAC is an excellent way of promoting youth engagement in our community. Evidence suggests the importance of meaningfully engaging young people. Establishing a YAC can serve two purposes:

- 1) It is a municipal link/conduit to ensure that young people are meaningfully engaged in the planning, execution, and evaluation of all tasks related to youth in our community.
- 2) It serves as an opportunity for young people to build their personal advocacy and leadership abilities within a youth engagement framework that supports positive development and helps them achieve their personal goals.

**Terms of Reference**

Appended to this report is the Terms of Reference which outline the details and expectations of this committee. As this is a committee of council, any recommendations that arise will come to council for consideration.

**Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications associated with this initiative.

**Strategic Plan:**

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Engaged Community
- Responsive Municipal Government

**Attachments:**

Community Services Youth Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference