



ELECTION NEWS

In this update you will find all the latest news on what is happening with the Aberdeen City Youth Council's elections.

Nominations closed on the 22 February, and this update will let you know who is up for what!

Over the next month, candidates will now campaign to be elected to their chosen positions, before online voting opens on April 1 and the final result is announced at a special event at the end of April.

THE CANDIDATES

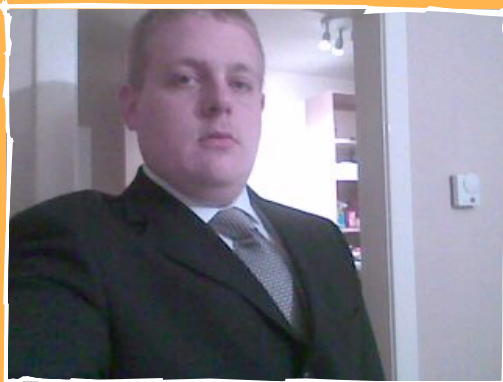
CHAIR

BARRY THOMSON

AGE: 21

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

I have been on the Youth Council for over 6 years and I feel that I am able to take on the post of Chair. I have the commitment, the experience, the confidence and the links within the City Council and other community projects within the City.



I am currently the Convener of the Justice Committee on the Scottish Youth Parliament and spent a term of 2 years as a Corporate Director of the UK Youth Parliament. My involvement in these organisations have made me the confident and active young person that I am today.

Locally, I have done petitions to get the voting age reduced to 16 and helped create the Youth Council and SYP manifestos. To do all of this, I have taken it upon myself to go round school, youth clubs, community centres and even took to the streets in the rain.

I have always said that communication is key. I am always in contact with everyone and I will break down that barrier. I would be there for all Youth Councillors for help, support and advice. I will make the Youth Council stronger by leading others, building their confidence, arranging training and sorting them with essential contacts to do their work.

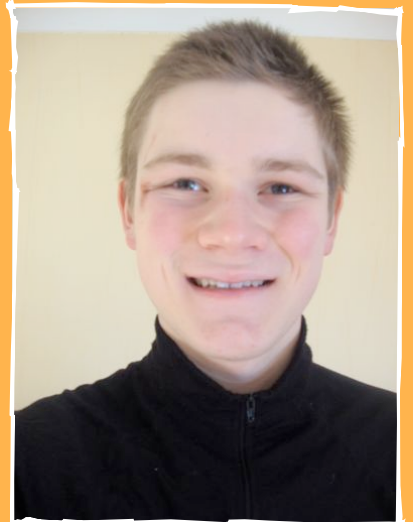
I will remain free of party influence during my term. I feel that I am the best choice and hope that you think I would be too!

SEAN PRESS

AGE: 15

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

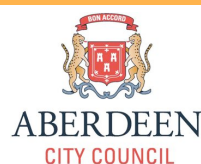
I joined the Youth Council firstly to give more youths a voice and to secure more youth activities in my area. In my area, people often claim that young people cause crime, but in my opinion the crime is boredom and I believe that the only way to deal with this is to provide more facilities and activities in the area.



I also feel that Councillors do not seek to represent young people strongly enough and young people are therefore without a voice. I want to continue to address this and have the Youth Council continue to speak up for young people that aren't listened to or ignored.

As Chair, I would like to help the organisation represent young people to even greater effect, making it easier to access and increasing the opportunities for young people to have their say. Alongside this, I would hope to increase awareness of the Youth Council so that more views are being fed into the organisation. This would enable the Youth Council to make more democratic and better informed decisions about issues that are important to Aberdeen's young people.

I believe that the Youth Council does a very good job in Aberdeen and would like to build on its strengths and expand the reach of its work.



VICE-CHAIR

KERRY WATT

AGE: 22

IN HER OWN WORDS:

I always think that any opportunity is what you make of it. Since becoming involved in the Youth Council and a similar group in West Lothian, I've learned, I've led, and I've done things I never thought I'd do. I've left Aberdeen, and come back. I've been involved in the Scottish Youth Parliament and have picked up a lot of skills.



I see this as a chance to use those skills and pass them along. This is a role that allows me to work closely with others and share what I know, and act upon it. Rather than solely lead, I can spend more time in supporting others - a role I feel more comfortable in.

I want to deliver a stronger Youth Council: in skills, in reputation, and in numbers. Numbers doesn't just mean those who regularly attend meetings, it means every young person in Aberdeen - because that's what the Youth Council is. It's difficult, but what I want to deliver the most is progress towards that, and simultaneously ensure that whilst we hear as many young people as possible, the people who need to hear young people also hear them - and that they listen.

From the age of 14 I've watched the Youth Council go from strength to strength, and I want to help take it further. We have the opportunity. I want to help us all make the most of it.

JOSH COWE

AGE: 17

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

I have been a member of the Aberdeen City Youth Council for a while now, as well as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Aberdeen South and I feel I am ready to take on a bigger responsibility.



I feel I can bring a lot of positive qualities to the office bearer team by being Vice Chair. I am an outgoing person who loves to get out and speak to young people. I am eager that in the position I could help the Youth Council connect with young people as well as push the organisation to achieve all that it can.

As Vice Chair, I would obviously support the Chair as much as possible in their duties. I would aim to develop good relationships with all the office bearers, to create good communication. This will help the group work more effectively and progress our work.

As an office bearer, you must set an example to fellow Youth Councillors. By getting out there and speaking to young people and also caring very much about the Youth Council, I feel I fulfill this role model role well.

UNOPPOSED POSITIONS

TREASURER

KAYLEIGH
KILPATRICK

SECRETARY

ELEANOR
HOUSE

PRESS OFFICER

ASHLEIGH
O'CONNOR-MANLON

CAMPAGNING

Candidates are now free to canvass for your vote and campaign in any way they find most effective!

To add to the pressure, the Youth Council has organised a hustings event, giving you the opportunity to grill all the candidates (even the unopposed ones) on what they intend to do if elected!

Anyone is eligible to attend and we are hoping to get a good mix of young people, partner organisations and elected members:

Youth Council Election Hustings - Grill the Candidates!
Tuesday 30 March, 7.30pm
Commitee Rooms, Town House, Broad Street

VOTING

The Youth Council is working hard behind the scenes with Aberdeen City Council and Democracy Counts Ltd. to develop online voting for the election.

We expect details to be finalised shortly and will let you know as soon as possible. Online voting is expected to open on April 1.

There will be one opportunity to cast a physical ballot at a special event on 22nd April. At this event, partner organisations and elected members will also be eligible to vote!

The results of the election will also be revealed at this event, having been counted and scrutinised by our neutral observers Councillor Jackie Dunbar, Councillor Kate Dean and Councillor Martin Greig!

In the meantime, keep an eye on our election blog for the latest updates:

www.acyselection.wordpress.com

ENQUIRIES

If you have any questions or want to know a little more about the Youth Council's 2010 elections, get in touch with us:

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