

2040 norwich city vision

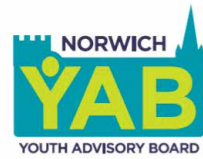
Youth Conference Report

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1. Introduction

2040 norwich city vision



As students, workers, volunteers and residents of Norwich, young people are at the heart of our vibrant and growing city. They are also the future workers, parents and leaders, which is why it's important to have young people help shape the vision for Norwich 2040.

While Norwich is a success story, there are some key challenges, that young people in particular face, including bullying, mental health issues, and a lack of activities and things to do. Other concerns include education, health, employment and housing.

To make sure Norwich keeps on thriving and addresses the challenges, we need a clear, shared and ambitious vision of what we want our city to be. What opportunities should we be grasping? How do we equip young people for the future? What do we love about our city that we should protect?

As the civic leader, Norwich City Council is steering the development of this vision. The conference held, in partnership with the Norwich Youth Advisory Board, on 1 May 2018 is one of a number of ways the council is talking to residents, businesses, organisations and groups from across the city, as well as visitors to the city, to help shape this long-term vision for Norwich.

This report provides a summary of the recent conference and the outputs from the table activities. On completion of the engagement work, a full analysis and considered review of the entire breadth of materials and content will be carried out. This will inform the priorities and actions that we all need to undertake to deliver the shared vision for Norwich 2040.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Waters".

Alan Waters
Leader of Norwich City Council



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jasmine Mickleburgh".

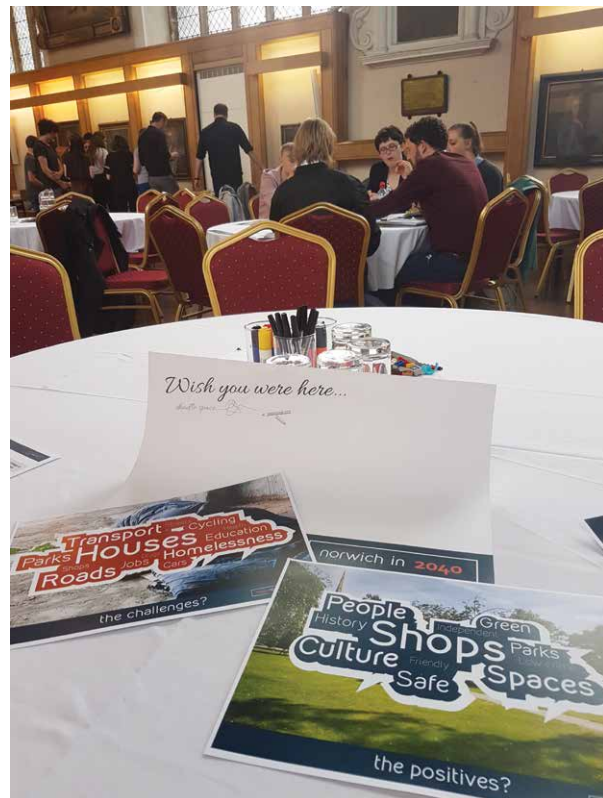
Jasmine Mickleburgh
Chair of Norwich Youth Advisory Board

2. Conference summary

Around 40 delegates attended the youth conference at Blackfriars' Hall on 1 May 2018. They were presented with an overview of the key facts about the state of Norwich, and the results from the 2017 Norwich YAB consultation; both setting the scene for the table activities.

Delegates worked through three different group exercises:

1. a postcard describing life in Norwich in 2040
2. a list of their top 10 things they want to retain and develop, and the challenges
3. ideas and actions on what is needed to get Norwich to where we want it to be by 2040.

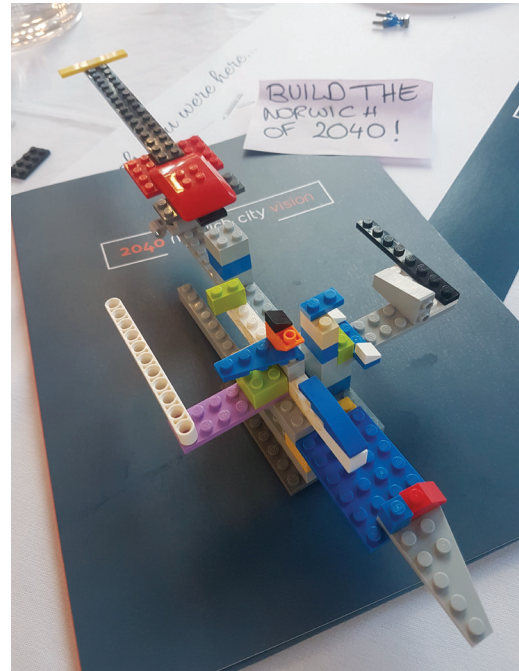


The strengths delegates mentioned largely align with other findings; however, one new theme emerged: young people having a voice. Alongside this new strength, many new challenges also emerged:

- cleanliness in the city centre
- more free activities for 11-18-year olds
- mental healthcare provision
- improving the digital infrastructure
- sustainability
- living a healthy lifestyle
- closing the gender pay gap
- crime.

Sustainability was seen as strength by other groups and as a challenge for young people. Delegates did not believe that the city was as green as it could or should be. They believed that electric transport and increased recycling measures need to be put in place. Similarly, safety was mentioned as a strength in previous findings whereas delegates from the youth conference positioned crime as a challenge that Norwich faces due to antisocial behaviour, gangs and the number of violent attacks.

Delegates at the youth event recognised that the regeneration of Anglia Square will bring about more modern facilities, and is a real opportunity for an ambitious development that will enhance that area of the city. Some delegates believe that the project may adversely affect those living in the local area on the low incomes; therefore the development needs to be sensitive to the surrounding area and communities.



3. Common themes

The youth conference shares a high number strengths and challenges with other findings to-date. When mentioning strengths, the following themes were duplicated:

- Norwich is a good place to make a life
- Norwich is a friendly with a strong sense of community
- diversity
- retail and food scene
- Norwich's rich history yet forward-looking
- parks and open spaces.

However, delegates did not list the universities as strengths.

There were also many similarities regarding the challenges that Norwich faces including:

- inequality and lack of social mobility
- street homelessness
- the need for mixed, high quality, affordable housing
- employment opportunities
- too much traffic in the city centre
- social isolation
- poor secondary and vocational education and lifelong.

In contrast to earlier findings where some groups were more worried about the impact of increasing diversity, the youth conference delegates did not see the increasing diversity of the city as a challenge.



4. Other key priorities

Young people having a voice...

- Delegates were extremely positive about the conference. They felt that more opportunities need to be organised where young people are enabled to share their ideas, have their voices heard and contribute to strategic planning.
- These opportunities could be events or engagement activities organised by the council as well as businesses and organisations within communities.
- The challenge is creating opportunities for engagement and consultation with young people that result in actions.
- The need for more diverse and younger political representation was also identified.

Education...

- Many delegates thought that the educational offering needs to improve to equip young people with the right skills and offer more opportunities for successful careers.
- There's a need for all schools to work in partnership with employers to offer more work experience and training opportunities.
- Delegates expressed that varied routes to higher education are also needed to make higher education more financially accessible.
- There is a need for greater life skills to be taught in schools to help young people be better prepared for the future.

Sustainability...

- There was a consensus that greener/cleaner transport is needed for a better future, and it needs to be cheaper and available 24/7.
- In 2040 the vision is to have electric cars and public buses.
- The need to make recycling more accessible was also mentioned.
- Free recycling points are needed; and recycling bins should be all over Norwich.

Increasing diversity and a greater sense of acceptance...

- Many thought that an increased diverse community is needed, though Norwich is diverse, improvement is needed.
- The LGBTQ+ community was also mentioned in terms of having a voice and being accepted, along with the need for greater respect for older people.
- Delegates thought that more activities and events celebrating diversity are needed.

Crime...

- Delegates were concerned with anti-social behaviour, young people joining gangs and overall safety.
- They mentioned areas they avoid at night such as Chapelfield Gardens and Prince of Wales Road due to the number of stabbings and assaults that occur.
- They would like alternative options for night time activities such that they can have fun and feel safe.

More free activities for 11-18 year olds...

- Many delegates believed that in order to lower crime rates, young people need to have activities they can access easily.
- Though they agreed that the city holds a great number of events, more free events and activities tailored to 11-18 year olds are needed.
- Cheaper access to sporting facilities was also mentioned.

A healthy lifestyle...

- Leading a healthier lifestyle was presented as a challenge necessary to overcome in order for the city to be even better.
- Delegates wanted more transparency around what was in their food
- They wanted affordable alternatives to supermarkets, such as farmers markets or food grown locally and naturally.
- They also wanted the ability to grow their own food, and highlighted that this needs to be a consideration when designing housing and communities.

Mental healthcare provision...

- Many delegates agreed that more emphasis needs to be placed on mental health publicly and in classrooms.
- Young people want to understand what mental health services are available and how to access support if they need it.
- There is a need to address waiting lists for support and better early intervention provision.

Closing the gender and age pay gaps...

- Delegates wanted to see Norwich paving the way for closing the gender and age pay gaps in the UK.
- Some young people are paid less for doing the same work as others older than them.
- They believe that Norwich should start and own local initiatives to close the gender and age pay gaps.

Improving the digital infrastructure...

- Providing free Wifi and improving internet speeds across Norwich is important to young people.
- They want to remain connected while they are in town, traveling and at home.

Cleanliness in the city centre...

- Delegates believe that the city centre isn't clean enough.
- Littering and the lack of bins was a concern.
- This concern was raised in relation to the desire to keep a beautiful city clean.



5. More information

To talk to us about the project to develop a shared city vision, email:
transformation@norwich.gov.uk

6. Agenda

Please click link for the **[agenda](#)**.