



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

Introduction

As emphasised at the 10th session of the World Urban Forum in February 2020, the focus is now firmly on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the UN's New Urban Agenda, which was marked with the launch of the SDG Cities initiative. An important element of the work to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, is inclusive engagement with all ages. Young people have their own priorities and needs, and their own perspective to bring to sustainable development matters. Over half of the population of the Commonwealth is under the age of 30, and therefore it is important that young people are actively involved in planning for development.

A team has been assembled from across the Commonwealth to drive this initiative forward and to maximise the engagement to inform the Toolkit.

The Purpose of the Toolkit

The purpose of this Toolkit is to encourage more young people to become engaged in sustainable development issues, to suggest ways in which they can amplify their collective voice, and to provide guidance to the public and private sectors on how to engage with young people. In order to do this effectively, the Toolkit will draw upon and signpost to other relevant guidance, platforms and initiatives.

In so doing the Toolkit aims to give young people greater capacity to influence development issues, and to increase the awareness of sustainable development matters amongst young people on a multi-disciplinary basis.

What will the Toolkit Contain?

The Toolkit will feature two main elements:

1. A guide for engaging with young people which is practical for local and regional authorities, links to relevant platforms and initiatives and includes case studies of best practice.
2. A guide for young people on how they can engage in sustainable development issues at various spatial scales, with examples of what they could lobby for as well as case studies of best practice.

The contents of the Toolkit will be informed by the findings from engagement to be undertaken across the Commonwealth between March and April 2020, including collaboration with key organisations.

Programme

- Working title – February 2020.
- Refinement of the approach to the Toolkit and inter-relationship with the CAP Rapid Urbanisation Toolkit – Early March 2020.
- Call for Evidence – April 2020.
- Blueprint document, setting out the findings from initial consultation and engagement, and the approach to the Toolkit – by the end of April 2020.
- Present the blueprint and consultation findings at the CHOGM event and encourage further engagement with the Toolkit – June 2020.