Background Information

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is just one part of a global network of nearly 800 Biosphere Reserves working to develop new sustainable development strategies, conservation practices (of both biodiversity and culture), and important research. At UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, we work to achieve this through work under our strategy 'Working Together for a Sustainable Future' and our vision of 'an Island where people and the rest of nature have a sustainable future'. Biosphere Isle of Man has recently undergone a Periodic Review, highlighting key successes and opportunities to improve over the next ten years. You can find out more in the State of the Biosphere Report.

We place a high value on the voices of young people in our Biosphere Reserve and are committed to supporting their development as engaged community members. Our goal is to empower young people to take action in enhancing our Biosphere. We have two to three youth representative seats in our Biosphere Board. With members from public, private and third sectors, the board members work together to guide the direction of our Biosphere. Having youth representatives present in these groups gives young people the power to shape the future of their Biosphere Reserve.

Alice Watson, Youth Representative (2025-2027), says: "It is an honour to serve as a Youth Representative. This role is about real collaboration, standing up for young people, our local community, and key stakeholders. You get to connect with young people across the island, help organise memorable events like the Commonwealth Games opening, and take up incredible opportunities to travel and represent the Biosphere overseas. It's perfect for someone who's ready to speak up for the Biosphere and throw themselves into the adventure with open arms and boundless enthusiasm."

Brandon Cain, Youth Representative (2025-2027), says: "Being a youth representative has been an absolutely fantastic opportunity. The role allows you to be the voice of young people in the Biosphere Board and Stakeholder Partnership Forum, as well as feeding into the strategy of our Biosphere. The role has allowed me the opportunity to make valuable connections in a number of organisations around the island and globally. The role is also very flexible, both in terms of when you work, and how you wish to work with the role and the opportunities you want to pursue within the role."

