

Minutes

Youth Council Meeting

Monday 1 September 2025 at 6pm

Council Chamber at Civic Centre,   
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Youth Councillors

Youth Cr Kaynat Virk Youth Mayor

Youth Cr Emily Tricarico Deputy Youth Mayor

Youth Cr Osama Akkad

Youth Cr Angelica Banquil

Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur

Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim

Youth Cr Zachary Melvaine

Youth Cr Angela Rolevska

Youth Cr Tanya Sharma

Youth Cr Sandy Tran

Youth Cr Elly Watson

Youth Cr Sophie Winter

Officers

Jacinta Stevens Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Bobbie-Lea Bright Unit Manager Compliance & Governance

Order of Business

[1 Opening 4](#_Toc207970386)

[1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions 4](#_Toc207970387)

[1.2 Apologies/Absent 4](#_Toc207970388)

[1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement 4](#_Toc207970389)

[1.4 Youth Council Charter 4](#_Toc207970390)

[1.5 Acknowledgements 5](#_Toc207970391)

[2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest 5](#_Toc207970392)

[3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s 5](#_Toc207970393)

[4 Officers' Reports 6](#_Toc207970394)

[4.1 Draft Budget 2026-27 and Community Action Plan 2026-27 consultation 6](#_Toc207970395)

[4.2 Park and Playground Renewal Program update 8](#_Toc207970396)

[4.3 Town Centre Revitalisation Program update 10](#_Toc207970397)

[5 Notices of Motion 11](#_Toc207970398)

[6 General / Urgent Business 11](#_Toc207970399)

[7 Closure 11](#_Toc207970400)

**1 Opening**

**1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions**

The Youth Mayor opened the meeting at 6pm.

Welcome to this Youth Council Meeting of 1 September 2025 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

I am Kaynat Virk, Youth Mayor and I would like to introduce the Youth Councillors in attendance tonight:

Emily Tricarico, Deputy Youth Mayor

Angelica Banquil

Bavleen Kaur

Mustafa Khraim

Angela Rolevska

Tanya Sharma

Sandy Tran

Elly Watson

Osama Akkad

Sophie Winter

We also have in attendance Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO.

**1.2 Apologies/Absent**

**Absent:**

Zachary Melvaine

**1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement**

The Youth Mayor read the following statement:

*“On behalf of Council, I recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.*

*I would also like to acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.”*

**1.4 Youth Council Charter**

The Youth Mayor read the following Youth Council Charter:

*“We, the members of the City of Whittlesea Youth Council, commit to advocating for and being the voice of the youth within our municipality. We ensure a safe space for all, to engage in constructive collaboration on matters affecting young people. We aim to empower and foster community connectedness in our youth so they feel valued and supported to achieve their aspirations.”*

**1.5 Acknowledgements**

The Youth Mayor made the following acknowledgements:

**Youth Summit**

This month, a number of Youth Council members have been busy planning for the upcoming Youth Summit which is taking place on 11 September. The Youth Council will bring together young people from across the municipality for meaningful engagement and discussion on the vision, priorities and challenges young people see for themselves in the City of Whittlesea.

**Cr Michael Labrador**

On behalf of the Youth Council, I would also like to congratulate Councillor Michael Labrador, who was recently elected to represent the Lalor Ward.

**2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

No declarations.

**3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **COUNCIL RESOLUTION** | |
| ***Moved:*** | *Youth Cr Sophie Winter* |
| ***Seconded:*** | *Youth Cr* Osama Akkad |

**THAT the Youth Council confirm the Minutes of the preceding meeting held on 4 August 2025, as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

**4 Officers' Reports**

4.1 Draft Budget 2026-27 and Community Action Plan 2026-27 consultation

**4.1 Draft Budget 2026-27 and Community Action Plan 2026-27 consultation**

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Customer & Corporate Services

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Corporate Planning

**In Attendance:** Manager ePMO & Change

Unit Manager Financial Development & Accountability

Unit Manager Corporate Planning

Corporate Planners

# Executive Summary

Each year, Council publishes a Community Action Plan that articulates key actions and sets the strategic direction for the financial year. This plan supports the long-term vision outlined in Whittlesea 2040 and the broader Community Plan 2025-29.

At the same time, Council delivers its annual Budget, allocating $350 million in operating expenditure this financial year to sustain essential services and support infrastructure development for the growing community. The Budget is closely aligned with Council’s long-term financial plan, ensuring responsible investment and sustainable service delivery.

Recognising the need to prioritise within limited resources, Council seeks community input, including the Youth Council, to identify valued services and priorities. Insights gathered will shape key planning documents and inform ongoing community engagement efforts available at *engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/priorities2026*.

# Officers’ Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council provide feedback to assist in developing key documents, including the Budget 2026-27 and Community Action Plan 2026-27.

*Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **COUNCIL RESOLUTION** | |
| ***Moved:*** | *Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim* |
| ***Seconded:*** | *Youth Cr Osama Akkad* |

**THAT the Youth Council provide feedback to assist in developing key documents, including the Budget 2026-27, Community Action Plan 2026-27.**

**CARRIED**

|  |
| --- |
| **YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION** |
| *Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **VOTING** | | |
| **FOR** | **AGAINST** | **ABSTAINED**  **(vote against the motion)** |
| *Youth Mayor Kaynat Virk*  *Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico*  *Youth Cr Osama Akkad*  *Youth Cr Angelica Banquil*  *Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur*  *Youth Cr Angela Rolevska*  *Youth Cr Tanya Sharma*  *Youth Cr Sandy Tran*  *Youth Cr Elly Watson*  *Youth Cr Sophie Winter* | *Nil* | *Nil* |

4.2 Park and Playground Renewal Program update

**4.2 Park and Playground Renewal Program update**

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Infrastructure & Environment

**Report Author:** Coordinator Open Space Projects

**In Attendance:** Coordinator Open Space Projects

Landscape Architect

# Executive Summary

The Park and Playground Renewal Program supports the ongoing upgrade of parks and playgrounds in alignment with the City of Whittlesea’s Open Space Strategy (2016) and the Parks and Open Space Asset Management Plan. Play equipment generally has a 25-year design life before it is required to be renewed.

The City of Whittlesea currently manages 255 public playgrounds, with projections indicating growth to approximately 300 playgrounds by 2035. Council successfully upgrades between six and nine playgrounds annually, with annual capital budgets ranging from $1.55 million to $2.5 million depending on the program of works for that year. For the 2025-26 financial year, eight playgrounds are scheduled for renewal, valued in total at $2.2 million. In addition to the annual renewal program, Council also constructs new playgrounds and upgrades existing playgrounds as part of major redevelopment of our parks and also kindergarten projects.

Given the growing number of playgrounds across the municipality, Council is required to renew approximately nine playgrounds each year to ensure none exceed their 25-year lifespan. Council regularly reviews playground provisions as part of the Public Open Space Plan and identifies opportunities to enhance some playgrounds to better meet local requirements and rationalise smaller playgrounds if there is an overprovision i.e. where more than one playground exists within a 400-metre walkable catchment.

# Officers’ Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council note the 2025-26 financial year park and playground renewal program.

*Youth Cr Osama Akkad moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **COUNCIL RESOLUTION** | |
| ***Moved:*** | *Youth Cr Osama Akkad* |
| ***Seconded:*** | *Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico* |

**THAT the Youth Council note the 2025-26 financial year park and playground renewal program.**

**CARRIED**

|  |
| --- |
| **YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION** |
| *Nil* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **VOTING** | | |
| **FOR** | **AGAINST** | **ABSTAINED**  **(vote against the motion)** |
| *Youth Mayor Kaynat Virk*  *Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico*  *Youth Cr Osama Akkad*  *Youth Cr Angelica Banquil*  *Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur*  *Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim*  *Youth Cr Angela Rolevska*  *Youth Cr Tanya Sharma*  *Youth Cr Sandy Tran*  *Youth Cr Elly Watson*  *Youth Cr Sophie Winter* | *Nil* | *Nil* |

*Youth Cr Angelica Banquil left the meeting at 6:59pm.*

4.3 Town Centre Revitalisation Program update

**4.3 Town Centre Revitalisation Program update**

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Infrastructure & Environment

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Urban Design & Placemaking

**In Attendance:** Manager Urban Design & Transport

Unit Manager Urban Design & Placemaking

# Executive Summary

To provide Youth Council with an overview of the Town Centre Revitalisation Program, including the recently completed and upcoming projects.

# Officers’ Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council provide feedback on the Town Centre Revitalisation Program presentation.

*Youth Cr Angela Rolevska moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **COUNCIL RESOLUTION** | |
| ***Moved:*** | *Youth Cr Angela Rolevska* |
| ***Seconded:*** | *Youth Cr Osama Akkad* |

**THAT the Youth Council provide feedback on the Town Centre Revitalisation Program presentation.**

**CARRIED**

|  |
| --- |
| **YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION** |
| *Youth Cr Angela Rolevska* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **VOTING** | | |
| **FOR** | **AGAINST** | **ABSTAINED**  **(vote against the motion)** |
| *Youth Mayor Kaynat Virk*  *Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico*  *Youth Cr Osama Akkad*  *Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur*  *Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim*  *Youth Cr Angela Rolevska*  *Youth Cr Tanya Sharma*  *Youth Cr Sandy Tran*  *Youth Cr Elly Watson*  *Youth Cr Sophie Winter* | *Nil* | *Nil* |

**5 Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion

**6 General / Urgent Business**

No Urgent Business

**7 Closure**

There being no further business the Youth Mayor formally closed the meeting at 7:15pm.

Confirmed this 6th day of October 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Youth Cr Kaynat Virk

Youth Mayor