



**City of
Whittlesea**

Minutes

Youth Council Meeting
Monday 4 August 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

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1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Youth Mayor opened the meeting at 6pm.

Welcome to this Youth Council Meeting of 4 August 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
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

Apology:

Angelica Banquil

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 acknowledgement:

Municipal Association of Victoria Conference

I am pleased to report that Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico and I have been selected to attend the Municipal Association of Victoria Annual Conference in October.

The MAV is the peak body for local government in Victoria and its annual conference brings together representatives, including councillors and executives, from the state's 79 councils.

This year, the MAV invited youth participation via a highly competitive expression of interest process in which young people submitted an EOI along with a one-minute video.

Emily and myself are thrilled to have been chosen to represent the City of Whittlesea and the young residents who live in this municipality at the conference.

We look forward to reporting back on our experience at a future Youth Council meeting.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i>

THAT the Youth Council confirm the Minutes of the preceding meeting held on 7 July 2025, as circulated.

CARRIED

4 Officers' Reports

4.1 Consultation on the draft Community Plan 2025-29

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Unit Manager Corporate Planning

In Attendance: Director Customer & Corporate Services
Manager ePMO & Change
Unit Manager Corporate Planning
Corporate Planner

Executive Summary

The draft Community Plan 2025–29 (CP 2025–29) (Attachment 1) is a comprehensive four-year strategy designed to support all residents of the City of Whittlesea, regardless of background or stage of life. Structured around 12 key themes, the Plan addresses diverse aspects of community life—including safety, connectivity, transport, engagement with the natural environment, and full participation in community activities.

To ensure effective implementation, an annual Community Action Plan will guide the delivery of priorities, beginning with the draft Community Action Plan 2025–26 (CAP 2025–26) (Attachment 2). This action-oriented roadmap aligns with the long-term Vision of Whittlesea 2040 “A place for all” and reinforces Council’s commitment to transparent progress reporting and accountability.

This report aims to facilitate a meaningful dialogue with the Youth Council about both the draft CP 2025–29 and the draft CAP 2025–26. It offers a clear and comprehensive overview of these strategic documents, emphasising the community’s long-term Vision and key priorities. Additionally, the report invites feedback from the Youth Council to ensure their perspectives help shape the planning process.

The discussion will highlight how the goals outlined in the Community Vision, Whittlesea 2040 “A place for all”, are being translated into practical, targeted initiatives that promote positive, lasting outcomes for every member of the community.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council collaborate to provide feedback to Council Officers on the Community Plan 2025-29 and Community Action Plan 2025-26.

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i>

THAT the Youth Council collaborate to provide feedback to Council Officers on the Community Plan 2025-29 and Community Action Plan 2025-26.

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim and Youth Cr Emily Tricarico

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Cr Kaynat Virk</i> <i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur</i> <i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i> <i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i> <i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Sandy Tran</i> <i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

4.2 Draft Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Coordinator Open Space Planning

In Attendance: Coordinator Open Space Planning

Executive Summary

Edgars Creek, a tributary of the Merri Creek, flows through Wollert, Epping, Lalor and Thomastown in the City of Whittlesea. Managed by state authorities, Council and private entities, the creek's design and community interaction have evolved over time. While older sections reflect a primarily engineered approach, newer areas emphasise on conservation and accessibility for the community.

The 2001 Edgars Creek Corridor Master Plan aimed to naturalise the creek corridor within the City of Whittlesea, with shared paths, canopy trees, and improved integration with nearby sporting reserves. However, many initiatives were not implemented, and infrastructure upgrades have fallen short of the plan's vision.

The draft Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan (LIP) outlines a vision for the creek's future, focusing on infrastructure development, native vegetation restoration, ecological enhancement, and creating a resilient corridor. The plan aims to develop diverse landscape experiences, a continuous shared trail, and an inviting corridor while supporting community care for the creek, fostering connections to nature, and advocating for enhancements. The creek corridor is divided into six precincts, each offering unique characteristics and opportunities, including new residential areas, industrial sites, and heritage listed properties.

Key proposed actions include planting native vegetation, improving water quality through natural filtration, and naturalising sections of the creek. It also emphasises better access with pathways and crossings, enhanced public spaces featuring picnic shelters and community gardens, and promoting safe, active travel.

Next steps involve presenting the draft to Council for endorsement, initiating Phase 2 community consultation, and refining the plan based on the feedback.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Note the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan.
2. Provide feedback on the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan.

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i>

THAT the Youth Council:

- Note the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan.**
- Provide feedback on the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan.**

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Youth Cr Angela Rolevska

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Cr Kaynat Virk</i> <i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur</i> <i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i> <i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i> <i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Sandy Tran</i> <i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

Youth Mayor, Kaynat Virk sought a Procedural Motion to extend the meeting for an additional 30 minutes to allow officers to present their reports.

PROCEDURAL MOTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i>

THAT the meeting be extended for an additional 30 minutes to allow officers to present their reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Cr Kaynat Virk</i> <i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur</i> <i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i> <i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i> <i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Sandy Tran</i> <i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

4.3 Social Inclusion Action Group

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Partnerships and Projects Officer

In Attendance: Social Inclusion Action Group Coordinator

Executive Summary

This report introduces the new Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) project to the Youth Council and asks for their support in encouraging young people to apply. Funded by the State Government, this initiative aims to increase social inclusion, connection, and community wellbeing.

The SIAG will consist of 12–14 community members from diverse backgrounds working together to support initiatives that enhance participation and belonging. Expressions of interest for membership open on 8 August 2025.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Note the Social Inclusion Action Group Presentation.
2. Apply to join the SIAG by way of an Expression of Interest.
3. Promote and encourage young people aged 18 years and over to apply from 8 August 2025.

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur</i>

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Note the Social Inclusion Action Group Presentation.
2. Apply to join the SIAG by way of an Expression of Interest.
3. Promote and encourage young people aged 18 years and over to apply from 8 August 2025.

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Cr Kaynat Virk</i> <i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur</i> <i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i> <i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i> <i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Sandy Tran</i> <i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

4.4 Youth Council's Involvement at City of Whittlesea's 2025 Walking Thomastown Event (Youth Surveys)

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Youth Development Officer

In Attendance: Youth Development Officer

Executive Summary

Walking Thomastown is a key community celebration that showcases local culture, creativity, and belonging through food, performance, and public activation.

In 2025, City of Whittlesea Youth Services will return for a third consecutive year to deliver a dedicated Youth Space as part of this event through the Amplify program (formerly FReeZA).

The Youth Space provides an opportunity to engage directly with young people through live performances, interactive activities, and meaningful consultation. Youth Council is invited to assist with the delivery of the 2025 Youth Survey, which will gather insights from young people across the municipality to support future actions and delivery of Youth Services.

The Amplify Crew will take on the lead for planning and delivering the event components of the Youth Space, including staging, activities, and audience engagement.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Attend Walking Thomastown on Saturday 30 August 2025 from 6pm to 9pm and support Youth Services staff with the delivery of the 2025 Youth Survey.
2. Assist with engaging young people and the broader community with the Youth Space by facilitating the survey, collecting feedback, and promoting the role of Youth Council.

Youth Cr Angela Rolevska moved the following motion:

Motion:

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Attend Walking Thomastown on Saturday 30 August 2025 from 6pm to 9pm and support Youth Services staff with the delivery of the 2025 Youth Survey.
2. Assist with engaging young people and the broader community with the Youth Space by facilitating the survey, collecting feedback, and promoting the role of Youth Council.
3. Confirm attendance after receiving further information on the location from the Youth Development team.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Attend Walking Thomastown on Saturday 30 August 2025 from 6pm to 9pm and support Youth Services staff with the delivery of the 2025 Youth Survey.
2. Assist with engaging young people and the broader community with the Youth Space by facilitating the survey, collecting feedback, and promoting the role of Youth Council.
3. Confirm attendance after receiving further information on the location from the Youth Development team.

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Youth Cr Angela Rolevska

VOTING

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Cr Kaynat Virk</i> <i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur</i> <i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i> <i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i> <i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Sandy Tran</i> <i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

4.5 Youth Summit - 11 September 2025

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Youth Development Officer

In Attendance: Youth Development Officer

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to formally invite the Youth Council to be involved in the Youth Summit 2025, scheduled for Thursday, 11 September 2025. The summit is a key initiative of the Youth Development Team and will focus on youth-led dialogue, ideas, and advocacy for better outcomes across the municipality.

Youth Council is already represented on the internal planning committee. However, this report seeks endorsement for formal and active participation in the delivery of the summit, including promotion, on-the-day leadership, survey feedback, and post-event feedback gathering.

This summit presents a significant opportunity for Youth Council to demonstrate its leadership, amplify youth voice, and contribute to a legacy initiative that connects with a broad cross-section of young people in our community.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

- 1. Formally participate in the Youth Summit event, scheduled for 11 September 2025.**
- 2. Nominate representatives to lead or support summit delivery roles including MC'ing and co-facilitation.**
- 3. Support promotion of the summit across Youth Council networks, schools, and social media.**

Youth Cr Sophie Winter moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i>

THAT the Youth Council:

- 1. Formally participate in the Youth Summit event, scheduled for 11 September 2025.**
- 2. Nominate representatives to lead or support summit delivery roles including MC'ing and co-facilitation.**
- 3. Support promotion of the summit across Youth Council networks, schools, and social media.**

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Cr Kaynat Virk Youth Cr Emily Tricarico 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 Osama Akkad Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

4.6 Charter of Human Rights

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Youth Development Officer

In Attendance: Youth Development Officer

Executive Summary

This report presents the final, graphically designed version of the City of Whittlesea Youth Charter of Rights for Youth Council's formal approval. The Charter outlines young people's rights to feel and be safe when engaging in Council programs and services.

Youth Council previously reviewed and provided feedback on the draft Charter in May 2025. That feedback has since been incorporated, and the final version is now complete.

This report seeks Youth Council's endorsement of the final Charter and support for promotion as part of the next phase: a communication and rollout plan across youth spaces, programs, and digital platforms.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. **Note the Youth Charter of Rights has been finalised following earlier Youth Council feedback.**
2. **Endorse the final version of the document for implementation across City of Whittlesea youth programs and services.**
3. **Support the promotion and visibility of the Charter across their networks, youth spaces, and events.**

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i>

THAT the Youth Council:

1. **Note the Youth Charter of Rights has been finalised following earlier Youth Council feedback.**
2. **Endorse the final version of the document for implementation across City of Whittlesea youth programs and services.**
3. **Support the promotion and visibility of the Charter across their networks, youth spaces, and events.**

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Cr Kaynat Virk</i> <i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur</i> <i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i> <i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i> <i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Sandy Tran</i> <i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

4.7 Youth Council Submission - Draft Affordable Housing Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Council Governance Officer

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to note the Youth Council submission provided to the Strategic Property and Portfolio Development team in relation to the Draft Affordable Housing Plan.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council note the feedback provided by all Youth Councillors in collaboration following the July Youth Council meeting at Attachment 1.

Youth Cr Tanya Sharma moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>

THAT the Youth Council note the feedback provided by all Youth Councillors in collaboration following the July Youth Council meeting at Attachment 1.

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Cr Kaynat Virk</i> <i>Youth Cr Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur</i> <i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i> <i>Youth Cr Angela Rolevska</i> <i>Youth Cr Tanya Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Sandy Tran</i> <i>Youth Cr Elly Watson</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

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 7:56pm.

Confirmed this on 1st day of September 2025.

Youth Cr Kaynat Virk

Youth Mayor