

Minutes

Youth Council Meeting
Monday 6 October 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

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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 6 October 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
Zachary Melvaine
Angela Rolevska
Tanya Sharma
Sandy Tran
Elly Watson
Sophie Winter

We also have in attendance Bobbie-Lea Bright, Unit Manager Compliance & Governance.

1.2 Apologies/Absent

Apology:

Osama Akkad

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

A number of our Youth Councillors assisted in planning for the recent Youth Summit. Not only did they provide a youth perspective to the programming of the event, but they also developed the What Affects Youth Mental Health activity and prepared scripts and MC'd on the day. Thank you to Emily, Elly and Angelica for joining me in planning the event which was a huge success.

I also extend my thanks to all other Youth Councillors who attended on the day.

Success of Walking Thomastown

On Saturday 30 August four of our Youth Councillors- myself, Emily, Sandy and Mustafa worked alongside Council's Youth Development team at the Walking Thomastown event to capture community feedback to inform the new Whittlesea Youth Plan 2026-2029.

On the night we asked those aged under 16 years about mental health and wellbeing. We enjoyed a high success rate of getting responses too.

Thank you to all those who attended and well done to all of the Council teams involved in bringing the event to life.

Child Safety Forum

In early September the Child Friendly Cities and Communities (CFCC) network, auspiced by the Victorian Local Governance Association, hosted a forum in the city – Shared Futures: Communities That Listen to Children.

Youth Councillors Bavleen and Osama, along with Youth Officer Sam and the City of Whittlesea's Children and Families representative attended the forum. Thank you to our Youth Councillors who participated as part of the working group, as members of the Youth panel and provided support to the event. The insights you shared as part of the panel were an inspiration and made a big impact to those attending.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur</i>

THAT the Youth Council confirm the Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held on 1 September 2025, as circulated.

CARRIED

4 Andrew Giles MP

Andrew Giles attended the meeting virtually to gain and insight into the Youth Perspective.

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Introduction: Strong Local Economy Strategy 2026-2036

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Rikki Keys, Industry Development Officer, Agri-Food

In Attendance: Sarah Rowe, Manager Economic Development
Craig Emmerson, Unit Manager Investment Attraction & Business Growth
Michelle Isherwood, Unit Manager Business Engagement & Support
Rikki Keys, Industry Development Officer, Agri-Food

External Attendees: Vicki Triantis, Urbis Pty Ltd
Jamie Papps, Urbis Pty Ltd

Executive Summary

This report and presentation (Attachment 1) are to introduce the development of the *Economic Growth Strategy 2026-2036* and seek feedback from the Youth Council as part of the pre-consultation.

The City of Whittlesea is developing the next *Economic Growth Strategy 2026–2036*. The current *Strong Local Economy Strategy 2022–2026* set the foundation for creating a stronger, more resilient economy. As our city continues to grow and evolve, it is time to build on this work and shape the next 10 years.

The *Economic Growth Strategy* (Strategy) aims to support a Strong Local Economy, one of five key goals in the City of Whittlesea's long-term community vision, Whittlesea 2040: A Place for All (W2040). A strong economy means more than just business success – it means more jobs, better education, and a more inclusive community.

The new 10-year Strategy will set a cohesive and sustainable direction for Council, aligned with the goals of W2040. It will guide Council's activities over the next decade, focusing on sustainable, inclusive, and innovative opportunities that drive long-term economic growth and prosperity across the region.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council provide feedback to assist the development of the discussion papers for the *Economic Growth Strategy 2026-2036*.

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

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

THAT the Youth Council provide feedback to assist the development of the discussion papers for the Economic Growth Strategy 2026-2036.

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Mayor Kaynat Virk Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico 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</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

5.2 Youth Council Meetings Schedule for 2026

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Council Governance Officer

In Attendance: Council Governance Officer

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for the Youth Council to adopt the proposed Youth Council Meeting schedule for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026, noting no meeting will be scheduled in the month of April.

Youth Council Meetings are conducted monthly so that the Youth Council may engage with Council Officers at Youth Council meetings for the purpose of providing expert advice to Council on topics and issues relevant to young people.

It is proposed that Youth Council Meetings are conducted on the first Monday of the month commencing in February 2026.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Adopt the Youth Council meeting schedule outlined below, noting all meetings will commence at 6pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang:
 - Monday 2 February 2026
 - Monday 2 March 2026 – Election of Youth Mayor & Youth Deputy Mayor
 - Monday 4 May 2026
 - Monday 1 June 2026
 - Monday 6 July 2026
 - Monday 3 August 2026
 - Monday 7 September 2026
 - Monday 5 October 2026
 - Monday 9 November 2026
 - Monday 7 December 2026
2. Note it is proposed a Council Briefing dinner with Councillors will be scheduled during March and August 2026, to inform Council of identified issues of priorities, projects and portfolio work undertaken by the Youth Council.

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>
Seconded:	<i>Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico</i>

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Adopt the Youth Council meeting schedule outlined below, noting all meetings will commence at 6pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang:
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 - Monday 1 June 2026
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 - Monday 9 November 2026
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2. Note it is proposed a Council Briefing dinner with Councillors will be scheduled during March and August 2026, to inform Council of identified issues of priorities, projects and portfolio work undertaken by the Youth Council.

CARRIED

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Mayor Kaynat Virk</i> <i>Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Angelica Banquill</i> <i>Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur</i> <i>Youth Cr Mustafa Khraim</i> <i>Youth Cr Zachary Melvaine</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 Sophie Winter</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

6 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

7 General / Urgent Business

No Urgent Business

8 Closure

There being no further business the Youth Mayor formally closed the meeting at 7:24pm.

Confirmed this 1st day of December

Youth Cr Kaynat Virk
Youth Mayor

UNCONFIRMED