



City of Whittlesea

Youth Council agenda

Monday 7 September 2026 at 6pm



Council Chamber,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**City of
Whittlesea**

Artwork © Mandy Nicholson, 2017



Youth Councillors

Youth Cr Emma Fasciani

Youth Mayor

Youth Cr Gabby Charman

Deputy Youth Mayor

Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis

Youth Cr Alana Luscombe

Youth Cr Caleb Whitehall

Youth Cr Charlize Pommier

Youth Cr Clare Joseph

Youth Cr Dhyan Bhavsar

Youth Cr Ethan Kosumo

Youth Cr Hemal Sharma

Youth Cr Osama Akkad

Youth Cr Mannat Sooch

Youth Cr Suad Issa

Youth Cr Theresa Yan

Officers

Agata Chmielewski

Acting Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Justine Smith

Unit Manager Council Governance

Order of Business

1 Opening	4
1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions.....	4
1.2 Apologies/Absent	4
1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement	4
1.4 Youth Council Charter	4
1.5 Acknowledgements	4
2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest.....	4
3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s	4
4 Officers' Reports	5
4.1 Youth Hub State Election Update	5
4.2 Community Priorities Community Engagement - shaping the 2027-28 Budget and Community Action Plan	7
5 Notices of Motion	10
6 General / Urgent Business	10
7 Closure	10

1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Youth Mayor will open the meeting and welcome everyone in attendance.

1.2 Apologies/Absent

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair will 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 personally acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.”

1.4 Youth Council Charter

The Chair will read the following statement:

“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

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council confirm the Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held on 3 August 2026, as circulated.

4 Officers' Reports

4.1 Youth Hub State Election Update

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Advocacy Advisor

In Attendance: Chief Customer Officer
Unit Manager Advocacy & Research

Key Highlights

The City of Whittlesea is preparing an advocacy campaign seeking a \$3 million Victorian Government commitment towards the establishment of a dedicated Youth Centre in the City of Whittlesea.

The Youth Centre is a priority identified in Council's Advocacy Prospectus 2025–29 and would operate as part of a Hub and Spoke service model, providing a central, purpose-built facility supported by youth programs, services and activities delivered at locations across the municipality.

The model is designed to increase access to youth programs and services, strengthen social connection and support positive health, wellbeing, education and employment outcomes for young people. As well as support initiatives being led by the two-major parties in the lead up to the Victorian State election to prevent and reduce youth crime and anti-social behaviour.

Following Council's endorsement of the preferred Youth Centre site in South Morang, and with Council continuing to advocate for external government funding, there is a timely opportunity to strengthen the campaign ahead of the Victorian State Election.

Council will also work with young people to participate in the co-design of the Youth Centre and to develop content and ensure that young people are meaningfully represented in the campaign, as well as ensuring the final design is fit for purpose.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide Youth Council with an overview of the proposed advocacy campaign, the opportunity presented by the upcoming State Election, and the ways Youth Council members can contribute to and participate in the campaign.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

- 1. Note the City of Whittlesea Youth Centre advocacy ahead of the state election.**
- 2. Advise Council's Advocacy Team, via the Councillor Support Officer no later than Friday 11 September 2026, if they wish to support and participate in the advocacy campaign.**

Attachments

Nil

4.2 Community Priorities Community Engagement - shaping the 2027-28 Budget and Community Action Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Public Affairs

Report Author: Unit Manager Community Engagement

In Attendance: Manager ePMO & Change
Unit Manager Corporate Planning
Unit Manager Community Engagement

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 \$353 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.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council provide feedback to assist in developing key documents, including the Budget 2027-28 and Community Action Plan 2027-28.

Background / Key Information

Each year, the Council publishes a Community Action Plan that outlines the key initiatives it will prioritise during the financial year, in line with the Community Plan 2025–29. The Community Action Plan 2027-28 will act as the annual supplement to the overarching Community Plan 2025–29. It clearly sets out the community and internal outcomes that guide our strategic direction, with these actions planned for delivery within the 2027-28 financial year. The Action Plan plays a vital role in progressing our strategic objectives, which are embedded in the Whittlesea 2040 Vision – “A place for all” – and the Community Plan 2025–29.

At the same time, Council releases its annual Budget, detailing the investment and delivery of essential services and critical infrastructure to support our rapidly expanding community. It is vital to balance the ongoing provision of services and programs while also developing infrastructure and facilities to meet the needs of our growing population. The Budget is crafted to align with our long-term financial plan, which carefully balances current expenditure on projects and services with the need to ensure our financial sustainability over the longer term.

For the current financial year, Council has an operating budget of \$353 million to deliver services and programs to the community. However, resources are limited, and difficult decisions must be made. Understanding which services and assets the community values most both now and in the future is essential to inform the development of key strategic documents that will guide the Council’s activities over the next five to ten years.

Our Community Priorities engagement process gathers valuable insights that will inform the Budget 2027-28 and Community Action Plan 2027-28.

We are seeking input from the Youth Council as part of a broader community engagement effort to ensure their perspectives are considered. Feedback from this session will be presented and considered alongside the wider community consultation currently underway at engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/cp2027.

Implementation Strategy

Communication

The community is regularly engaged regarding Budget and Community Action Plan development, service delivery and performance as part of Council’s integrated community engagement program.

Critical Dates

Date	Activity
28 August to 27 September 2026	Community engagement - Phase 1
7 September 2026	Youth Council - engagement
6 October 2026	Community submissions meeting
7 December 2026	Youth Council - engagement
December 2026/January 2027	Community engagement - Phase 2
16 February 2027	Council Meeting - endorse Draft Community Action Plan
18 February to 7 March 2027	Community engagement - Phase 3 (public exhibition period)
1 March 2027	Youth Council - engagement
18 May 2027	Council Meeting - Adopt Budget and Community Action Plan

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers providing advice to Council are required to disclose any conflict of interest they have in a matter and explain the nature of the conflict.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Attachments

Nil

5 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

6 General / Urgent Business

7 Closure