

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

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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 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:	<i>Youth Cr Sophie Winter</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i>

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

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

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)
<i>Youth Mayor Kaynat Virk</i> <i>Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Angelica Banquil</i> <i>Youth Cr Bavleen Kaur</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>

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:	<i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i>
Seconded:	<i>Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico</i>

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)
<i>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</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

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

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

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)
<i>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</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 7:15pm.

Confirmed this 6th day of October 2025.

Youth Cr Kaynat Virk
Youth Mayor