City *of* Whittlesea

Youth Council minutes

Monday 7 September 2026 at 6pm

Council Chamber,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

City of Whittlesea

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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 Dhyani 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 5
1.5 Acknowledgements 5
2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest 5
3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s 5
4 Officers' Reports 6
4.1 Youth Hub State Election Update 6
4.2 Community Priorities Community Engagement - shaping the 2027-28 Budget and Community Action Plan 8
5 Notices of Motion 10
6 General / Urgent Business 10
7 Closure 10

1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Youth Mayor opened the meeting at 6pm.

Welcome to this Youth Council Meeting of 7 September 2026 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

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

Deputy Youth Mayor Gabby Charman
Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis
Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar
Youth Cr Suad Issa
Youth Cr Clare Joseph
Youth Cr Alana Luscombe
Youth Cr Charlize Pommier
Youth Cr Mannat Sooch
Youth Cr Caleb Whitehall
Youth Cr Theresa Yan

We also have in attendance Agata Chmielewski, Acting Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO and Justine Smith, Unit Manager Council Governance.

1.2 Apologies/Absent

I note Youth Councillor Hemal Sharma is an apology tonight.

We also have Youth Councillor Ethan Kosumo and Youth Councillor Osama Akkad who are absent tonight.

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:

Walking Thomastown Event

On Saturday 29 September, members of the Youth Council attended the Walking Thomastown event, where they spoke to locals and answered questions about the Youth Council and Youth Services at the City of Whittlesea. The event attracted around 8,000 people, creating a fun and vibrant event for locals.

Anti-Vaping Campaign

The Youth Council are also working with DPV Health on a new anti-vaping campaign, with the first meeting scheduled for next week.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

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.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	*Youth Cr Clare Joseph*
Seconded:	*Youth Cr Theresa Yan*

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 Officers' Reports

4.1 Youth Hub State Election Update

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Advocacy Advisor

In Attendance: 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.

Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	*Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman*
Seconded:	*Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar*

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.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING		
FOR	**AGAINST**	**ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)**
Youth Cr Emma Fasciani *Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman* *Youth Cr Alana Luscombe* *Youth Cr Caleb Whitehall* *Youth Cr Charlize Pommier* *Youth Cr Clare Joseph* *Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar* *Youth Cr Mannat Sooch* *Youth Cr Suad Issa* *Youth Cr Theresa Yan*	*Nil*	*Nil*

Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis joined the meeting at 6:16pm.

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: 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/cp2027.

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.

Youth Cr Suad Issa moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	*Youth Cr Suad Issa*
Seconded:	*Youth Cr Alana Luscombe*

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
Youth Cr Emma Fasciani *Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman* *Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis* *Youth Cr Alana Luscombe* *Youth Cr Caleb Whitehall* *Youth Cr Charlize Pommier* *Youth Cr Clare Joseph* *Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar* *Youth Cr Mannat Sooch* *Youth Cr Suad Issa* *Youth Cr Theresa Yan*	*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 6:26pm.

Confirmed this 5th day of October 2026.

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Youth Cr Emma Fasciani
Youth Mayor