

Minutes

Youth Council Meeting
Monday 5 May 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 Angelica Banquil

Youth Cr Dean Connelly-Carpenter

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 5 May 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
Sophie Winter

We also have in attendance Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

1.2 Apologies/Absent

Absent

Youth Councillor Dean Connelly-Carpenter
Youth Councillor 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:

Easter

Last month many in our community celebrated Easter, and we hope that those that celebrated had an enjoyable time with family and friends.

ANZAC Day

Last month we also acknowledged ANZAC Day, a day to honour the Australian men and women who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions. A number of dawn services and marches were held across the City of Whittlesea, and it was great to see so many people attending these.

Election of Mayor - Cr Martin Taylor

We would like to congratulate Councillor Martin Taylor who was last month elected to the role of City of Whittlesea Mayor for the remainder of the current Mayoral term. We look forward to continuing to work with the Mayor and all the Councillors on important projects going forward.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Youth Councillor Sophie Winter</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Councillor Elly Watson</i>

THAT the following Minutes of the preceding meeting as circulated, be confirmed:

- Youth Council Meeting held on 7 April 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 Officers' Reports

4.1 Charter of Rights Feedback

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Youth Development Officer

In Attendance: Unit Manager Youth Development

Executive Summary

Purpose

This document outlines young people's rights to feel safe and to be safe when engaging with the City of Whittlesea. It explains how we protect young people, what to do if a concern arises, and the support available.

Background

The City of Whittlesea is committed to child safety and complies with relevant Victorian legislation, including the Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme. This information is being presented to Youth Councillors to raise awareness of their rights and the rights of all young people that engage with CoW programming, the responsibilities of adults around them, and the avenues available for reporting concerns.

High-Level Issues

- Young people must know they have the right to feel and be safe.
- Clear reporting pathways must be communicated and trusted.
- Confidentiality is respected, but mandatory reporting obligations apply when safety risks are identified.
- Additional support services are available for young people seeking help beyond City of Whittlesea staff and volunteers.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Review the draft information on young people's rights to feel and be safe.
2. Provide feedback on the clarity, tone, and accessibility of the document.
3. Recommend any changes to improve how this information is communicated to young people.

Youth Councillor Mustafa Khraim moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion:

Motion

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Review the draft information on young people's rights to feel and be safe.
2. Provide feedback on the clarity, tone, and accessibility of the document.
3. Recommend any changes to improve how this information is communicated to young people.

Youth Councillor Mustafa Khraim proposed the following changes to the motion:

Motion

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Review the draft information on young people's rights to feel and be safe.
2. Provide feedback on the clarity, tone, and accessibility of the document.
3. Recommend any changes to improve how this information is communicated to young people.
4. **Ask the team to bring the final draft version of the Charter of Rights back to Youth Council at a later date for feedback.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Youth Councillor Mustafa Khraim</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Councillor Angela Rolevska</i>

THAT the Youth Council:

1. **Review the draft information on young people's rights to feel and be safe.**
2. **Provide feedback on the clarity, tone, and accessibility of the document.**
3. **Recommend any changes to improve how this information is communicated to young people.**
4. **Ask the team to bring the final draft version of the Charter of Rights back to Youth Council at a later date for feedback.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Youth Councillor Mustafa Khraim,

Youth Councillor Angela Rolevska

Youth Councillor Bavleen Kaur

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES		<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

UNCONFIRMED

4.2 Rainbow Youth Leadership Program

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Youth Development Officer

In Attendance: Youth Development Officer

Executive Summary

The Rainbow Leadership Program is a new 12-week leadership, advocacy, and civic engagement initiative supporting Rainbow young people, and their allies, aged 15 – 25. Delivered in partnership with Headspace Plenty Valley, the program is the first of its kind for the City of Whittlesea and only the second delivered by a Victorian Council.

The program complements Council's broader youth leadership suite, including the Young Women's Leadership Program, Young Men's Leadership Program, and Young Multicultural Leadership Program.

Week 11 of the program represents a core milestone, designed to strengthen connections between young people and Council's Governance Structure. Proposed activities include direct engagement with the CEO, Governance Team, and City of Whittlesea Youth Councillors, participant presentations, and the sharing of advocacy ideas focused on local Rainbow community needs.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Supports officer engagement with Governance and the Office of Council & CEO (OCCEO) to finalise program and Youth Councillor involvement.
2. Endorse participation in the Week 11 program session, including opportunities for Youth Councillors to engage with Rainbow Leadership Program participants.
3. Provide feedback at the Week 11 session (date and details to be provided at a later date).
4. Identify how reflections and advocacy actions from Week 11 can complement and inform the Youth Council's 12-month Action Plan

Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico
Seconded:	Youth Councillor Bavleen Kaur

THAT the Youth Council:

1. Supports officer engagement with Governance and the Office of Council & CEO (OCCEO) to finalise program and Youth Councillor involvement.
2. Endorse participation in the Week 11 program session, including opportunities for Youth Councillors to engage with Rainbow Leadership Program participants.
3. Provide feedback at the Week 11 session (date and details to be provided at a later date).
4. Identify how reflections and advocacy actions from Week 11 can complement and inform the Youth Council's 12-month Action Plan

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Deputy Youth Mayor Emily Tricarico

Youth Councillor Bavleen Kaur

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES		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 6:34pm.

Confirmed this 2nd day of June 2025.

Kaynat Virk
Youth Mayor

UNCONFIRMED