



Agenda

Youth Council Meeting

Monday 3 March 2025 at 6pm

You are advised that a Youth Council Meeting will be held on Monday 3 March 2025 at 6pm.

This meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

Youth Councillors

Angelica Banquil

Dean Connelly-Carpenter

Bavleen Kaur

Mustafa Khraim

Zachary Melvaine

Angela Rolevska

Tanya Sharma

Sandy Tran

Emily Tricarico

Elly Watson

Kaynat Virk

Sophie Winter

Officers

Jacinta Stevens Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Bobbie-Lea Bright Unit Manager Compliance & Governance

Order of Business

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**1 Opening**

**1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions**

The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO will open the meeting and welcome everyone in attendance.

**1.2 Apologies**

Youth Councillor Sandy Tran

**1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement**

The Executive Manager of Council & CEO 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**

A member of the Youth Council will be called upon to 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 following Minutes of the preceding Youth Council Meeting as circulated, be confirmed:**

* **Scheduled Meeting of Youth Council held on 3 February 2025.**

**4 Officers' Reports**

4.1 Youth Mayoral Election 2025-2026

**4.1 Youth Mayoral Election 2025-2026**

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

**Report Author:** Councillor Support Officer

# Executive Summary

The election of the Youth Mayor will be conducted in accordance with the City of Whittlesea Youth Council Terms of Reference (TOR).

Section 7 of the TOR prescribes that the Youth Council will receive nominations for and vote on a Youth Mayor at the second meeting of the term.

Elections will be, by way of a silent ballot with nominations submitted via an Expression of Interest form prior to the meeting.

The term of the Youth Mayor is for one year.

# Officers’ Recommendation

**THAT the Youth Council conducts the 2025-2026 election via silent ballot for the position of Youth Mayor for a term of one year.**

4.2 Deputy Youth Mayor Election 2025-2026

**4.2 Deputy Youth Mayor Election 2025-2026**

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

**Report Author:** Councillor Support Officer

# Executive Summary

The election of the Deputy Youth Mayor will be conducted in accordance with the City of Whittlesea Youth Council Terms of Reference (TOR).

Section 7 of the TOR prescribes that the Youth Council will receive nominations for and vote on a Deputy Youth Mayor at the second meeting of the term.

Elections will be, by way of a silent ballot with nominations submitted via an Expression of Interest form prior to the meeting.

The term of the Deputy Youth Mayor is for one year and is identical to the term of the Youth Mayor.

# Officers’ Recommendation

**THAT the Youth Council conducts the 2025-2026 election via silent ballot for the position of Deputy Youth Mayor for a term of one year.**

4.3 Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor and Youth Councillor Addresses

**4.3 Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor and Youth Councillor Addresses**

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

**Report Author:** Councillor Support Officer

**In Attendance:** Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

# Executive Summary

The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO will invite the newly elected Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor to present a two-minute address.

Youth Councillors will then be invited to make a two-minute response to the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor’s addresses.

4.4 Career Networking Expo - Youth Council as a Stall Holder

**4.4 Career Networking Expo - Youth Council as a Stall Holder**

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Community Wellbeing

**Report Author:** Youth Development Officer

**In Attendance:** Youth Development Officer

# Executive Summary

**Purpose**

The Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network (HWLLEN) Career Networking Expo aims to connect young people with representatives from the education, employment, and business sectors, providing them with opportunities to expand their career networks and explore future pathways. The Youth Council will participate as a stallholder, engaging with the public through interactive activities and gathering feedback on key issues affecting young people.

**Background**

The HWLLEN Career Networking Expo is an established annual event designed to support students in their career exploration by facilitating meaningful connections with industry professionals. Registered school groups attend tailored workshops that enhance their understanding of career networking and equip them with valuable resources. The Youth Council’s involvement aligns with their mission to advocate for young people and address emerging trends.

# Officers’ Recommendation

**THAT the Youth Council:**

1. **Ensure the stall attracts and engages a diverse range of young people through interactive and relevant activities.**
2. **Structure activities to capture useful insights on key challenges faced by young people, such as employment barriers, education pathways, and well-being.**
3. **Balance engagement with raising awareness about the Youth Council’s role and initiatives, ensuring young people know how to get involved.**
4. **Handle high traffic effectively, ensuring all visitors have a chance to participate while managing materials and information efficiently.**

# Background / Key Information

**Event Overview**

The HWLLEN Career Networking Expo connects young people with representatives from education, employment, and business sectors to explore career pathways and opportunities. The Youth Council will attend as stallholders, engaging attendees through interactive activities and gathering feedback on key youth issues.

**Youth Council’s Role & Responsibilities**

* Engagement Activities: Facilitate conversations and interactive sessions to connect with attendees.
* Feedback Collection: Gather insights on challenges faced by young people, such as employment barriers and education pathways.
* Awareness & Advocacy: Inform attendees about the Youth Council’s role and how they can get involved. Promote the application process for the new terms to be served by new Youth Councillors. Promote the upcoming Youth Summit. Provide examples of the types of projects that Youth Council has been involved in to date, as well as the key focus areas the Youth Council identified in 2024 and confirmed in 2025.
* Logistics: Manage stall setup, materials, and time to ensure smooth operation throughout the event.

**Key Issues & Themes**

***Common Youth Challenges - Employment Barriers:***

Many young people face difficulties in finding stable employment due to a lack of experience, limited job opportunities, or insufficient skills that employers seek. Additionally, economic factors such as a competitive job market and geographical location may further limit access to employment.

**Why It Matters:**

Youth unemployment can have a lasting impact on young people’s future, affecting their economic stability and long-term career prospects. Identifying the specific barriers faced by youth will help the Youth Council advocate for policies that support job creation, skill development programs, and equitable access to employment opportunities.

***Common Youth Challenges - Education and Training Access:***

While education is often seen as the key to success, many young people face challenges in accessing quality education and training. This includes financial barriers, limited availability of courses that align with career interests, and a lack of guidance or mentorship to navigate the educational system.

Why It Matters:

Ensuring all youth have access to educational resources and training opportunities is crucial for their success and future employability. This challenge is particularly significant for those from marginalised communities, where access to education may be restricted. Feedback on this topic will help the Youth Council advocate for reforms in educational policies and better funding for vocational programs.

**Benefits of Participation**

* Enhanced visibility
* Skill development (event management, communication, leadership, public speaking)
* Direct youth engagement.
* Enable attendees to voice their concerns through engaging with the Youth Council, contributing to discussions on youth issues, and learn about available resources and support networks.
* Opportunity to connect with like-minded peers and gain a better understanding of potential career pathways and the steps required to achieve their goals.
* Provide opportunity to assess how well current Youth Council focuses align with real-world youth concerns, ensuring that future initiatives are relevant and impactful.

# Implementation Strategy

Communication

Comms team will promote the presence of Youth Council at the Careers Expo through our social media in the lead up to the event.

Critical Dates

Planning day for HWLLEN Careers Expo – 24 February 2025 (4pm @ Edge)

HWLLEN Careers Expo – 18 March 2025

# 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

1. HWLLEN Careers Expo PPT for Youth Council 03 03 202 [**4.4.1** - 7 pages]

4.5 Youth Council Submission - MPHWP & DAP - Health Priorities

**4.5 Youth Council Submission - MPHWP & DAP - Health Priorities**

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Community Wellbeing

**Report Author:** Unit Manager Healthy & Inclusive Communities

# Key Highlights

The purpose of this report is to note the Youth Council submission provided to the Healthy & Inclusive Communities Team in relation to the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) and the Disability Action Plan (DAP).

# Officers’ Recommendation

**THAT the Youth Council note the feedback provided by all Youth Councillors in collaboration following the February Youth Council Meeting at Attachment 1.**

# Attachments

1. Completed Submission Form Item 4.1 [**4.5.1** - 3 pages]

**5 Notices of Motion**

No Notices of Motion

**6 General / Urgent Business**

No Urgent Business

**7 Closure**