

Special Council Minutes Index – 19 December 2016

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Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on Monday 19 December 2016 in the Council Chambers Bridgetown commencing at 5.30pm, called to receive the Draft Youth Plan 2017-2021.

Acknowledgment of Country – Presiding Member

On behalf of the Councillors, staff and gallery, I acknowledge the Noongar People, the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we are gathered, and pay my respects to their Elders both past and present.

Attendance

President	- Cr J Nicholas
Councillors	- J Boyle
	- S Hodson
	- D Mackman
	- J Moore
	- A Pratico
	- P Scallan
	- A J Wilson
In Attendance	- T Clynch, CEO
	- E Denniss, Executive Manager Community Services
	- M Richards, Grants & Services Manager
	- G Norris, Senior Administration Officer
Absent	- Cr Quinby

Attendance of Gallery

M Richards, N Clynch, A Karafilis, J Boyle, T & M Lockley, S Youngson, J Schilders, G Doust, J, T & K Basterfield, B Meagher, C Meagher, T Beechey, S Applin, B Crane, A McAlinden, L Meagher, A Cook, S Doust, T Clynch, A Applin, B Karafilis, I Lockley, A Basterfield

Public Question Time

Note: At Special Council Meetings questions must relate to the items on the Agenda.

J Boyle – Treasurer with Blackwood Youth Advocacy

Mr Boyle asked why is Council not using the local expertise of the Blackwood Youth Advocacy (BYA) for preparation of the Youth Plan instead of paying a consultant and why hasn't BYA been consulted?

Cr Nicholas responded – There has been extensive consultation carried out in the preparation of the Youth Plan and if passed tonight the Plan will go out for public consultation.

Petitions/Deputations/Presentations

Presentation

Eight members of the HACK youth group (Louis Meagher, Acer Cook, Sebastian Doust, Thomas Clynch, Alicia Applin, Benjamin Karafilis, Isabel Lockley, Abbey Basterfield) led by Ms Megan Richards provided a power point presentation to Council which provided information on how the group had come together, consulted

with Youth service providers and stakeholders as part of the informing process of the draft Youth Plan.

Comments on Agenda Items by Parties with an Interest - Nil

Notification of Disclosures of Interest

Section 5.65 or 5.70 of the Local Government Act requires a Member or Officer who has an interest in any matter to be discussed at a Committee/Council Meeting that will be attended by the Member or Officer must disclose the nature of the interest in a written notice given to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting; or at the meeting before the matter is discussed.

A Member who makes a disclosure under Section 5.65 or 5.70 must not preside at the part of the meeting relating to the matter; or participate in; or be present during, any discussion or decision making procedure relating to the matter, unless allowed by the Committee/Council. If Committee/Council allow a Member to speak, the extent of the interest must also be stated.

Nil

Business Items

ITEM NO.	SpC.01/1216	FILE REF.	
SUBJECT	Draft Youth Plan 2017-2021		
PROPONENT	Council		
OFFICER	Grants and Services Manager		
DATE OF REPORT	December 2016		

Attachment 1 Draft Youth Plan
Attachment 2 Draft Instrument of Appointment

- 1) *OFFICER RECOMMENDATION that Council notes the draft Youth Plan 2017-2021 at Attachment 1 and determine to seek community comment on the document for a period of 6 weeks prior to formal endorsement.*
- 2) *OFFICER RECOMMENDATION that Council establish a Youth Advisory Committee to implement Councils strategic objectives regarding young people within the Shire.*
- 3) *OFFICER RECOMMENDATION that the draft Instrument of Appointment & Delegation be endorsed by Council.*
- 4) *OFFICER RECOMMENDATION that the CEO call for expressions of interest from community members aged between 12 and 18 years who are interested in joining the Youth Advisory Committee for Council consideration and endorsement at the February 2017 Council Meeting.*

Summary/Purpose

- 1) This recommendation seeks to note the Youth Plan 2017 – 2021 and determine to advertise the Youth Plan 2017-2021 for community comment for a six week period prior to considering its final endorsement. The requested

period allocated for community comment has been extended beyond the usual four weeks due to the end of year holiday period.

- 2) This recommendation seeks to establish a Youth Advisory Committee as a mechanism to enhance ongoing communication with young people in the shire and to prioritize and implement the Youth Plan 2017 – 2021.
- 3) Committees established under Section 5.9 of the Local Government Act are required to have their members appointed by an absolute majority vote and have an Instrument of Appointment & Delegation endorsed by Council.
- 4) This recommendation seeks to encourage interested young people within the specific age range from across the shire to join the Youth Advisory Committee.

Background

In May 2014 the Shire was given the opportunity to receive funding to the value of \$10 000 through the Department of Communities, now the Department of Local Government and Communities, to complete a thorough youth consultation based on a participatory decision making model of consultation.

In May 2015 Council were offered a second amount of \$10 000 from the Department of Local Government and Communities to assist with the completion of the strategy and begin planning the implementation based on the outcomes of the consultation. This sum was offered the Local Governments that had received the initial funding in a non-competitive funding offer.

Initial planning for the youth consultation process began in late 2014 when a consultant was identified who was enthusiastic and willing to approach the consultation process based on participatory decision making principles and requirements, which often require increased time frames and creative delivery.

The consultant was contracted to work with shire officers to complete the consultation and Youth Plan. After meeting with each of the principals from the regional high schools in November 2014 it was agreed to leave the consultation until 2015 given the study requirements of students toward the end of each year.

The project was further deferred until the completion of the consultation for the review of the Age Friendly Communities Plan. The consultation for the Age Friendly Community Plan was completed and the plan written by March 2016. The Age Friendly Community Plan and was adopted by Council in June 2016.

Planning for the Youth consultation began in earnest in early 2016 with a visit to each of the schools to discuss the revised methodology and a comprehensive review of Councils current strategies and the inclusion of a group of youth engagement specialists, The Makers.

The comprehensive consultation for the Youth Plan included:

- Review of current strategies
- Review of regional youth services
- Stakeholder Interviews

- Discussion with the principals from Manjimup Senior High School, Bridgetown High School and Kearnan College
- Youth engagement activity at each school
- Youth Leadership Team invitations for participation
- HACK day
- Pilot testing of community survey
- Activities planning (Dunk Tank and BLC Take Over)
- Activities facilitation
- Agreement on relevant inclusions for the new plan

The aim of the process was to establish and work with a youth focus group from a broad cross-section of our community to delve into the community's assets, opportunities, issues and challenges for our young people.

Since mid-2016, shire staff and a community development consultant engage with the Youth Leadership Team regularly. The Youth Leadership Team determined the frequency, duration and location for each meeting over a four-month period.

The Youth Leadership Team was formed to assist Council to connect and engage with other young people throughout the shire. Together, the Youth Leadership Team have identified and prioritised ideas and projects that enable change and growth. At the end of the consultation process the Youth Leadership Team, also known as HACK has formed a positive and innovated team of young people, most of whom wish to continue working together to implement the Youth Strategy.

Importantly, this process has provided the focus group members with an opportunity to learn more about how democratic decision-making works in local government; prioritizing competing projects, expenditure/budgeting and focus areas that must be considered; and the importance of working in partnership with others assists in the delivery of priority youth projects.

The demonstrated outcomes of this process have been:

Young people will have –

- Ownership of the Shire's Youth Strategy;
 - Influenced Council's decision making process;
 - Increased awareness of the processes of governance and local government;
- and
- A sense of understanding and empathy for the needs of others.

And, Council will have –

- Developed a strategy and vision that is representative of the needs and wants of young people;
- A set of priority projects to implement based on the participatory decision making process involving our young people; and
- Created a group of young people with experience in engaging with the Shire in a constructive and pro-active manner.

KEY STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS

Conducted in Bridgetown and Greenbushes on 19 & 20 August 2016 with representatives of:

- Bridgetown Junior Football President
- Bridgetown Senior Football President
- Blackwood Parent Support
- Henry Nouwen House
- Byte Youth Theatre Group
- Bridgetown High School – Pastoral Care Team
- Lisa and Mark Holdsworth – Youth Group
- Manjimup Senior High School
- Kearnan College
- Recreation Centre
- Chooks – Tony Pratico
- Stables IGA
- Local Police
- South West Drug Counselling Service
- Greenbushes CRC
- Library
- Blackwood Youth Action Inc.
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health

CONSULTATION EVENTS

Dunk Tank

Saturday 12 November from 10am – 2pm

Memorial Park

Attendees – 300 (est) 140 surveys

Bridgetown Leisure Centre – Youth Take Over

Sunday 20 November from 10am – 2pm

Bridgetown Leisure Centre

Attendees: 45

Format:

- Priority voting process (4 Black dot vote for THE most important ways to engage with young people and 4 blue or pink dots votes for the priority issues)

YOUTH SURVEY

- Online as Survey Monkey

Officer Comment

The Youth Leadership Team participated in a HACK day facilitated by “The Makers”, a group of young and talented youth facilitators from Mandurah. The challenge for the Youth Leadership Team on that day was to come up with 3 ideas to engage half of the youth population of the Shire. They came up with the following activities:

- The Dunk Tank
- BLC Take Over
- Photo competition

The photographic competition was not included in the consultation process due to time constraints and organisational issues (Instagram/facebook entry difficulties). The Dunk Tank was extremely popular and engaged with the largest number of young people in the community.

The BLC Take Over included the use of a dot voting system to assess the importance of several of the identified issues and popular outcomes from the surveys.

The summary of the results below illustrate the demographics of the sample group and the findings of the consultation;

194 respondents

157 aged between 12 and 18 years

Home Location

- Bridgetown (town) 43%
- Bridgetown (rural) 33%
- Greenbushes (town) 8%
- Greenbushes (rural) 5%
- Catterick 2%
- Yornup 4%
- Kangaroo Gully 5%

Age

- 12 years – 24%
- 13 years – 31.8%
- 14 years – 19.1%
- 15 years – 11.5%
- 16 years – 7.6%
- 17 years – 3.8%
- 18 years – 1.9%

Employment

- Student 90%
- Unemployed 2%
- Work part-time 6%
- Work full-time 2%

School

- Bridgetown High School - 101 respondents
- Kearnan College – 16 respondents
- Manjimup Senior High School – 13 respondents
- Bridgetown Primary – 10 respondents
- St Brigids Primary – 5 respondents
- Other – 4 respondents
- Manea College Bunbury – 4 respondents
- I no longer go to school – 3 respondents
- Greenbushes Primary School – 1 respondent

The areas of focus for the Youth Plan were

- Being Involved – Participation
- Keeping on Track – Health and Wellbeing
- Spaces and Places to Be – Outdoors and Facilities
- Leading the Way – Engagement and Leadership

At the end of the consultation process the Youth Leadership Team, also known as HACK has formed a positive and innovated team of young people, most of whom wish to continue working together to implement the Youth Strategy as part of the proposed Youth Advisory Committee in second recommendation of this report.

The Youth Advisory Committee will comply with the requirements of an advisory committee to Council, however, due to the informal nature of the proposed Youth Advisory Committee and the age of its members it is suggested that the committee proceed without the need of a Councillor representative member to attend meetings. The committee will include a Shire officer nominated to support the advisory committee.

Statutory Environment - Not Applicable

Section 5.10 of the Local Government Act sets out the process for appointing committee members.

Section 5.10(2) of the Act states that any given time each council member is entitled to be a member of at least one committee. As all councillors are members of the Standing Committee this section of the Act is currently fulfilled.

Section 5.10(4) of the Act requires that if the President wishes to be a member of a committee he/she is to be automatically appointed to that committee.

Policy/Strategic Implications

The recommendations impact on a key strategic document review and affect documents included as informing strategies in the Community Services Strategy to provide guidance to officers with regard to service delivery.

Budget Implications – Not Applicable

There are no budget implications directly associated with the motions listed. The Youth Advisory Committee will, in due course, require Council consideration of expenditure and it is expected that this will be addressed through the annual budget planning process.

Fiscal Equity – Not Applicable

Whole of Life Accounting

The Youth Plan will provide representative strategic direction to assist with Councils decision making in relation to service delivery so that whole of life accounting implications are considered.

Social Equity

The aim of the recommendations is to seek to improve social equity by continuing to progress the ongoing development of youth involvement, engagement and inclusion in the community by ensuring that the Youth Plan is current and representative of the needs of youth in the community.

Ecological Equity – Not Applicable

Cultural Equity – Not Applicable

Risk Management

Council can mitigate risk in service provision investment by ensuring that the strategic document is representative and current, increasing Council's understanding of the community and ensuring the representative nature of the direction and decisions of Council.

Continuous Improvement

Council can achieve continuous improvement in service provision by ensuring that the strategic documents that guide Councils decision making are "living" documents that accurately reflect the evolving needs and preferences of the sector of the community the document is intended to support.

Voting Requirements

An Absolute Majority is required for the establishment of an Advisory Committee.

**Council Decision Moved Cr Wilson, Seconded Cr Hodson
SpC.01/1216 That Council notes the draft Youth Plan 2017-2021 at Attachment 1 and determines to seek community comment on the document for a period of 6 weeks prior to formal endorsement.**

Carried 8/0

**Council Decision Moved Cr Hodson, Seconded Cr Moore
SpC.01/1216a That Council establish a Youth Advisory Committee to implement Councils strategic objectives regarding young people within the Shire.**

Absolute Majority 8/0

Moved Cr Scallan, Seconded Cr Hodson

That the draft Instrument of Appointment & Delegation be endorsed by Council.

**Council Decision Moved Cr Scallan, Seconded Cr Pratico
SpC.01/1216b That Council invokes clause 8.1 of the Standing Orders at 5.57pm to allow for informal discussion.**

Carried 8/0

**Council Decision Moved Wilson, Prato
SpC.01/1216c That invocation of clause 8.1 of the Standing Orders cease at 6.08pm.**

Carried 8/0

**Council Decision Moved Cr Pratico, Seconded Cr Moore
SpC.01/1216d That Council defers consideration of the draft Instrument of Appointment & Delegation for the Youth Advisory Committee until the public consultation has been completed.**


Carried 8/0

Closure

The President closed the Meeting at 6.10pm

List of Attachments

Attachment	Item No.	Details
1	SpC.01/1216	Draft Youth Plan 2017-2022
2	SpC.01/1216	Draft Instrument of Appointment

Minutes papers checked and authorised by CEO, Mr T P Clynnh		16.12.16
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