
REPORT 1
(1215/52/IM)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

1. Purpose of Report

To report on the work and achievements of the Wellington Youth Council (WYC) in 2011, and to comment on how issues raised during the 2010 review of the Wellington City Council's advisory groups are being addressed in relation to the WYC. The WYC's Annual Report for 2011 is attached as Annex 1.

2. Executive Summary

The WYC has written its own Annual Report for 2011, which is attached as Annex 1.

The WYC is positive about 2011, which it views as a "year of development and growth". It reports that it is increasingly being engaged earlier in WCC processes and that it is receiving feedback on how its advice is being used.

The WYC has raised a number of issues and initiatives for the Council to consider. Most of these can be addressed administratively and have no financial implications. Officers will work with the WYC to explore the youth forum idea further as the 2012 work plan is developed. The issue of funding will be addressed when a suitable purpose and process is established. Options include funding from existing budgets, applying for grant funding and funding from partner organisations.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Note the work and achievements of the Wellington Youth Council (WYC) in 2011, including responses to the issues identified in the 2010 review of Wellington City Council's advisory groups.*
- 3. Note that officers plan to address the issues raised by the WYC for consideration by Wellington City Council through the WYC's work planning process for 2012.*

4. Background

The Wellington Youth Council (WYC) is an advisory group set up under a Terms of Reference (TOR)¹ to inform the work and activities of the Wellington City Council (WCC). The purpose of the WYC is to:

- provide WCC with a youth perspective on the range of issues covered by WCC, as well as issues relating directly to youth;
- build young people's knowledge of WCC processes to enable them to participate in WCC's decision-making processes; and
- build WCC's knowledge of the needs of young people in Wellington City and how these can best be met.

The TOR, which were revised in March 2011 following a 2010 review of WCC advisory groups, require the WYC to report annually on the "work it has undertaken, attendance and number of meetings held, the group's achievements and any issues or initiatives it wishes the Council to consider further."

5. Discussion

The WYC's report for 2011 is attached as Annex 1. It contains responses to the reporting requirements set out in the TOR. It also reports progress on issues raised during the 2010 review of WCC's advisory groups, particularly in relation to providing more people with the opportunity to be members of the WYC and earlier involvement in WCC processes.

The WYC is positive about 2011, which it views as a "year of development and growth". It reports that it is increasingly being engaged earlier in WCC processes and that it is receiving feedback on how its advice is being used.

The WYC has raised a number of issues and initiatives for the Council to consider. Except for the desire to run a youth forum similar to the Accessible Wellington Forum, all of these can be addressed administratively and have no financial implications.

While the WYC has organised youth fora and other events in the past, funds have not been allocated for this type of activity in current budgets. Officers will work with the WYC to explore the youth forum idea further as the 2012 work plan is developed. The issue of funding will be addressed when a suitable purpose and process is established. Options include funding from existing budgets, applying for grant funding and funding from partner organisations.

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

The WYC has written its own report, which is attached as Annex 1.

¹ <http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/youth/pdfs/youth-tor.pdf>

5.2 Financial Considerations

None of the issues or initiatives contained in the WYC's report require increased funding.

5.3 Climate Change Impacts and Considerations

None of the issues or initiatives contained in the WYC's report has climate change impacts or considerations.

5.4 Long Term Plan Considerations

None of the issues or initiatives contained in the WYC's report will impact on WCC's Long Term Plan.

6. Conclusion

This report provides a summary of the work and activities of the WYC in 2011. It also reports progress on issues raised during the 2010 review of WCC's advisory groups, particularly in relation to providing more people with the opportunity to be members of the WYC and earlier involvement in WCC processes.

Contact Officer: *Simon Wright, Senior Advisor, Consultation and Engagement*

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This activity fits with the outcomes for the Governance Strategy.

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The Wellington Youth Council is managed within existing budgets.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications from this report.

4) Decision-Making

This report does not require a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

No general consultation has been undertaken for this report.

b) Consultation with Maori

No consultation with Maori has been undertaken for this report.

6) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications from this report.

7) Consistency with existing policy

The activities of the Wellington Youth Council are consistent with existing policy and support ongoing policy development.

Annex 1. Annual report for the Wellington Youth Council

The Wellington Youth Council (Youth Council) is an advisory group set up under a Terms of Reference² to inform the work and activities of the Wellington City Council (WCC). The purpose of the Youth Council is to:

- provide WCC with a youth perspective on the range of issues covered by WCC, as well as issues relating directly to youth
- build young people's knowledge of WCC processes to enable them to participate in WCC's decision-making processes
- build WCC's knowledge of the needs of young people in Wellington City and how these can best be met.

This annual report is for the 2011 calendar year and is organised under the following main headings:

- Overall assessment of 2011
- Governance and administration
- Member inductions and development
- Communications
- Achievements
- Other issues and initiatives

Overall assessment of 2011

2011 has been a year of development and growth for the Youth Council.

The Youth Council is taking more ownership of directing itself. This greater independence is definitely helping to make Youth Council a forum where members feel they are listened to and are able to make decisions.

One of Youth Council's goals was to engage with WCC policy and projects at an early stage in order to have more constructive input. Through the help of council officers and the efforts of Youth Council members, this has been increasingly taking place.

The Youth Council feels that it has grown a lot in the last year and that it will be able to build on this during 2012.

The Youth Council Facebook page has 460 'likes' which means that we are interacting with a large group of Wellington's youth through social networking sites as well as through face-to-face relationships.

² <http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/youth/pdfs/youth-tor.pdf>

Governance and administration

This section reports on changes to the Youth Council's Terms of Reference, to the support WCC provides, and on recruitment and meeting attendance over the course of 2011.

Review and a new Terms of Reference

A review of advisory groups including the Youth Council was carried out in 2010 and a slightly revised Terms of Reference were signed off by WCC in March 2011. Key changes were:

- additional processes for recruiting and selecting Youth Council members
- better member induction and work programme planning to enable earlier and more effective involvement in WCC policy and decision making.

Support

WCC's support for the Youth Council transferred from the now disestablished Youth Team, which was part of City Communities, to the Consultation and Engagement team in July 2011. This was the result of a restructuring of the Citizen Engagement Directorate. A result of the change has been increased emphasis on the Youth Council providing policy advice.

Membership

A list of Youth Council members as at December 2011 is contained in Appendix 1. Eleven people applied to join the Youth Council during a recruitment drive in the first quarter of 2011. After appointing new members, the Youth Council had 20 members. Four members resigned over the course of the year. Two members have decided not to seek further terms in 2012. The Youth Council started its recruitment drive for 2012 in December 2011 and aims to appoint 6 new members early in 2012.

The figures in Appendix 2 show that the Youth Council had good diversity and balance of membership against most of the criteria set out in its Terms of Reference.

Number of meetings and attendance

The Youth Council met 22 times in 2011. A record of agenda topics and meeting attendance is contained in Appendix 3.

Member inductions and development

The 2010 review of advisory groups found that better induction processes were needed to improve the effectiveness of the Youth Council and its ability to provide relevant advice. Members also had opportunities to develop their capacity to perform their role. Towards these ends, the following activities took place in 2011:

- A member of the Policy team gave a presentation to provide an overview of WCC and its policy functions and processes.
- The Youth Council had two discussions on how it might best represent youth perspectives to WCC.

- Two members took part in the Human Rights Commission's National Youth Council on Cultural Diversity, 20-22 August and worked with other youth from around New Zealand to identify key youth issues.
- Three members attended a Regional Youth Council hui in Fielding to share experiences with, and learn from, members of other Youth Councils.
- A member outlined the role of the Youth Council in a presentation to the Tawa Community Board

Induction and development activities will be built on in 2012. Senior members of the Youth Council began developing a members' manual in 2011. It will clarify roles, responsibilities and internal processes and be used to help induct new members in 2012. WCC officers have also prepared induction materials for a programme that will be available to all of WCC's advisory groups.

Communications

The Youth Council has its own Facebook page,³ which is regularly updated and refreshed. 460 people currently 'like' the page. A Youth Council member has also developed publicity flyers that can be adapted for various purposes. An example is contained in Appendix 4.

Achievements

This section summarises some of the Youth Council's achievements in 2011. It reports on improved work programme planning and on advice provided to WCC, the Greater Wellington Regional Council and central government. It also notes some other activities.

Improved work programme planning

The 2010 review of advisory groups found that better work programme planning was needed to enable earlier and more effective involvement in WCC policy and decision making. The Youth Council has since assigned specific responsibilities for keeping abreast of portfolio issues to groups of members. Members have been directed to review the Forward Programme regularly and report issues that may be of interest to, and warrant further investigation by, the Youth Council. Portfolios are reviewed at every meeting and this system is now starting to drive the work programme.

Advice to Wellington City Council

The Youth Council made the following **formal submissions** to Wellington City Council:

- Town Belt Legislative and Policy Framework Review
- Draft Annual Plan 2011-12 – note that the 'Almost Amazing Race 3', a 'game' to encourage youth input was cancelled due to bad weather and low registrations.
- Draft Arts and Culture Strategy

³ <http://www.facebook.com/wellington-city-youth-council#!/pages/Wellington-City-Youth-Council/268731020626>

The Youth Council has provided **early input**, usually in sessions with the responsible officer(s), as follows:

- Two members attended a deliberative workshop to develop proposals for guiding principles for the Town Belt
- Draft arts and culture strategy
- YC input informed the development of Wellington City Council's submission on the Regional Public Transport Plan. Student fares were the highest priority and this advice was accepted by Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Towards 2040: Smart Capital
- Transport Safety project on young drivers
- One member has joined the Safe and Sustainable Transport Reference Group (SASTRG)
- Early input into Long Term Plan 2012-22
- Policy work on Access to Council-owned buildings and land for recreation and community purposes

Advice to Greater Wellington Regional Council

The Youth Council made a submission on the Regional Public Transport Plan to Greater Wellington Regional Council. A Council officer assisted with this submission.

Advice to Central Government

- A group of members worked over the summer to prepare a draft submission on the Alcohol Reform Bill. Their draft submission was informed by the results of an internet survey designed by members. The Youth Council reviewed the draft and submitted a final written submission. A group of members also made an oral submission to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee.
- The Youth Council made a submission to the New Zealand Transport Agency on proposed 'Transport Improvements from Mt Victoria Tunnel to Cobham Drive'

Other activities

- Two members attended a Matariki function hosted by the Governor General
- A number of members have volunteered to be on a Victoria University of Wellington research project steering group. The research programme will last several years and is on 'non-suicidal self-injury among young people'.
- Providing feedback on the Safe in the City Marketing Campaign
- Disseminating flyers for the Wellington City Council-sponsored free home energy assessments programme.
- Being models for Wellington City Council publicity photographs that will be used to promote the Long Term Plan 2012-22 engagement.

Other issues and initiatives

Members believe that the experience and understanding they gain by being members of the Youth Council is beneficial. It is an "eye opener" and provides

opportunities to represent youth.

The Youth Council is interested in some new initiatives in 2012 as listed below:

- Running a Youth Forum similar to the Accessible Wellington Forum.
- Re-establishing the relationship the Youth Council had with the Wellington Boys' and Girls' Institute.
- Doing more environmental scanning.
- Improving its communications by publishing an e-newsletter.

Appendix 1. Youth Council Membership

Youth Council membership at December 2011

1. Ana Yabakiron
2. Ben Oglivie
3. Bing-Ying Lou
4. Duncan Armstrong
5. Emily Murphy (Co-chair)
6. Jack Marshall
7. James Wall-Manning
8. Katja Heesterman (Co-chair)
9. Kieran Meredith
10. Morgan Watkins
11. Rebecca Christini
12. Ruth Corkill
13. Stevenson Pule
14. Susanna Larken
15. Zared Wall-Manning
16. Zoe Doole

Resignations during 2011

1. Brittany Packer
2. Sophie Yeoman
3. Helen Yu
4. Ricki Lambert

Appendix 2. Assessment of current members against a selection of membership criteria from the Terms of Reference

Figure1. Age

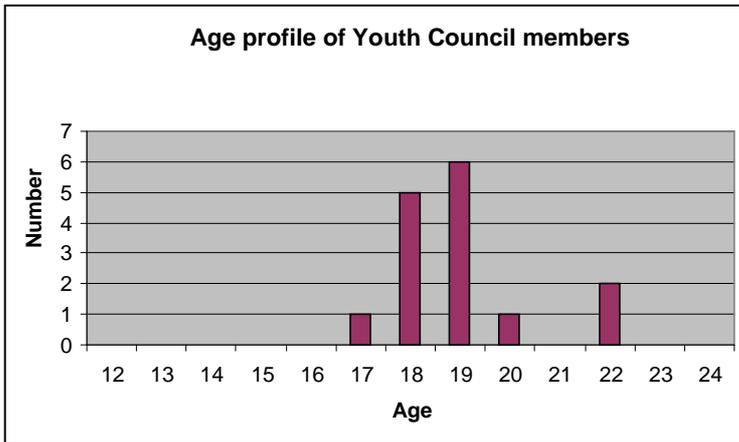


Figure 2. Gender

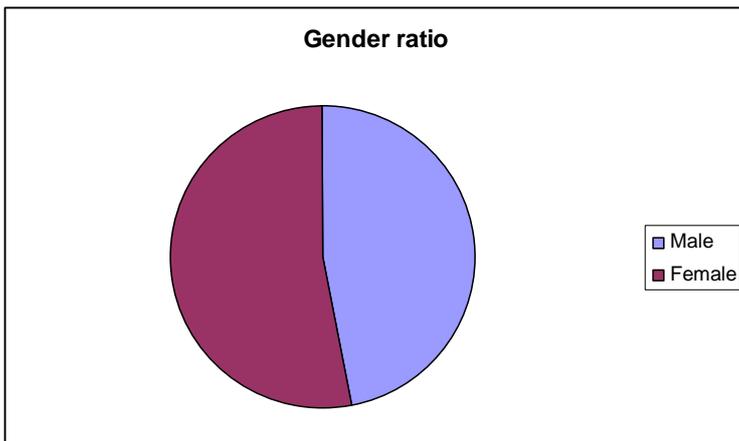


Figure 3. Occupation

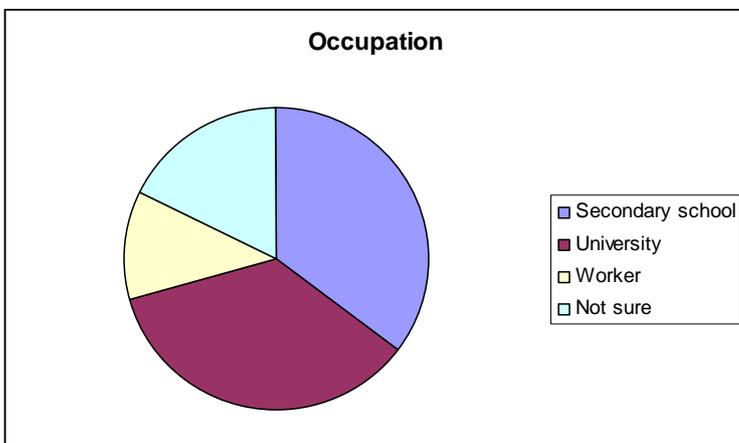


Figure 4. Place of residence



Appendix 3. 2011 Youth Council Meetings

Date	Agenda topics	No of members who attended
2 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol Reform Bill submission • Recruitment and membership • Induction and induction pack • Regional Youth Council Hui • Facebook and contacts • 2011 Work Plan 	10
16 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol Reform Bill submission • 2011 Work Plan 	12
2 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol Reform Bill submission • Youth Week • Young Community Leaders • Recruitment and Leadership • Portfolios • Terms of Reference review 	10
16 March ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	N/A
30 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellington 2040 • Policy induction • Sale of land submission • Regional Youth Council hui • Almost amazing race 3.0 	9
13 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost amazing race 3.0 • Town belt • Forward plan • Draft annual plan 	12
11 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward planning • Safe in the City Marketing Campaign • Draft Annual Plan Submission 	14
25 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Minimisation Act • Like Minds, Like Mine Research Project • Representation • Portfolios • Tawa Community Board meeting • Matariki 	14

⁴ Meeting record cannot be found.

APPENDIX 3

8 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Outline • Waste Management & Minimisation Plan • Tawa Community Board meeting • Arts and Culture Strategy 	10
22 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tawa Community Board meeting • Waste Management & Minimisation Plan • Support team handover • Portfolio outline • Forward programme • Notices 	13
6 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Arts and Culture Strategy • Wellywood sign • LMLM focus groups • Wellington 2040 – visit to storybox 	13
20 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Recycling in schools • Local Government Funding Agency • Greater Wellington Regional Council's Proposed Regional Public Transport Plan • NZTA 	11
3 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • NZTA – Basin Reserve • New Zealand Diversity Forum/ National Diversity Youth Forum • Motorcycle update 	12
17 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Draft submission to NZTA • Long Term Plan workshop • A manual for YC members • Regional youth hui • Collaboration with Wellington High School • VOICY, online forum for youth participation 	11
31 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • National Youth Forum on Cultural Diversity • Long Term Plan • Manual for members update • Town Belt submission update • Publicity drafts • Regional Youth Hui • 'Generation Waking Up' • Electoral system referendum and constitutional review project 	9

APPENDIX 3

14 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Manual for members • Town Belt submission • Publicity drafts • Safe and Sustainable Transport Reference Group and transport safety work 	11
28 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Publicity drafts • Membership • Long term plan 	9
12 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Youth safety transport focus group • Communications • Support for Youth Council post restructuring • Draft Arts & Culture Strategy submission • Access to Council-owned buildings and land for recreation and community purposes 	11
26 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Draft Arts & Culture Strategy • Volunteers for research project steering group on 'non-suicidal self-injury among young people' • Long Term Plan input 	11
9 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • UNICEF NZ Youth Ambassadors. • Member intentions for 2012, recruitment • Youth road safety • Youth-oriented advice • Climate Change Action Plan 	14
23 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Climate Change Action Plan • Recruitment plan for new members • Accessible Wellington Action Plan • Green Paper for Vulnerable Children 	10
7 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Recruitment • Accessible Wellington Action Plan • Self review of YC's work in 2011 • Secret Santas 	12

Appendix 4. Publicity flyer



The flyer features a background collage of a globe, a fern frond, and the Wellington City Council building. The text is bold and stylized, with 'WELLINGTON CITY' at the top, 'YOUTH' in the middle, and 'COUNCIL' at the bottom. Below the main title is the heading 'RECRUITMENT FOR 2012' followed by a bulleted list of requirements. A paragraph describes the council's role, and the bottom section provides a call to action and a URL.

WELLINGTON CITY YOUTH COUNCIL

RECRUITMENT FOR 2012

- Are you passionate about influencing the future of this city?
- Can you represent a unique cross-section of Wellington youth?
- Do you have a voice that needs to be heard?
- Are you aged between 12 and 24?

Wellington Youth Council is a group of twenty youth who meet fortnightly to provide a youth opinion on issues before the City Council from inputting into the development of the Long Term plan or making submissions.

FIND OUT MORE / APPLY AT
<http://tiny.cc/0pfgp>