



YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012

1. Purpose of report

To report on the work and achievements of the Wellington Youth Council (WYC) in 2012. The WYC's Annual Report for 2012 is attached as Annex 1.

2. Executive summary

The WYC has written its own Annual Report for 2012, which is attached as Annex 1.

The WYC is positive about 2012, which it views as a “step up” from 2011. It has produced significantly more advice and has developed an ongoing work programme.

The WYC considers that it is engaging actively and well with WCC's decision making processes. The next step for the WYC is to improve its engagement with Wellington youth.

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 in 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.

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

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 2012 is attached as Annex 1. It contains responses to the reporting requirements set out in the TOR.

The WYC is positive about 2012, which it views as a “step up” from 2011. It has produced significantly more advice and has developed an ongoing work programme. It has continued to improve its systems and practices.

The WYC considers that it is now engaging actively and well with WCC’s decision making processes. The next step for the WYC is to improve its engagement with Wellington youth. It plans to start working on this in 2013 by:

- interviewing university students to develop advice on how to help ‘flating youth’ be prepared for emergencies
- developing relationships with youth organisations that work with ‘hard-to-reach’ youth

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

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

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 2012.

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) LTP/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

No significant decisions need to be made.

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.

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 2012 calendar year and is organised under the following main headings:

- Overall assessment 2012
- Governance and administration
- Member inductions and development
- Communications
- Achievements

Overall assessment 2012

Overall, the Youth Council believes that its work in 2012 has stepped up from 2011. It credits this to improved systems and practices, particularly its use of working groups.

The Youth Council considers that it is now engaging actively and well with WCC's decision making processes. It almost doubled the number of submissions it produced in 2012 compared with 2011, and made oral submissions for the first time in a number of years.

The next step for the Youth Council is to improve its engagement with Wellington youth. It plans to start working on this in 2013 by:

- interviewing university students to develop advice on how to help 'flattening youth' be prepared for emergencies
- developing relationships with youth organisations that work with 'hard-to-reach' youth

Governance and administration

This section reports on the support the WCC provides, and on membership and meetings over the course of 2012.

Support

Simon Wright and Rekha Jatav from the Consultation and Engagement team have provided strategic, operational and administrative support and guidance to

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

the Youth Council. The Youth Council has appreciated the regular attendance and advice of Cr Simon Marsh.

Membership

A list of Youth Council members as at November 2012 is set out in Appendix 1. Fifteen people applied to join the Youth Council during the annual recruitment drive and 10 new members were appointed in February 2012 to bring the Youth Council to its full complement of twenty members. Four members resigned over the course of the year and 2 members have decided not to seek further terms in 2013.

The figures in Appendix 2 show that the 2012 Youth Council had good diversity and balance of membership against most of the criteria set out in its Terms of Reference. In 2013, mainly younger members need to be appointed.

The Youth Council has improved its recruitment processes. During the 2011-12 recruitment drive, 15 applications were received. After appointing 10 new members, the diversity and representativeness of the Youth Council improved. The 2012-13 recruitment drive started in October. By 26 November 2012, 30 applications had been received. Applications close on 11 February. The Youth Council has successfully targeted Year 10, 11 and 12 students by writing to schools.

Number of meetings and attendance

The Youth Council met 23 times in 2012. 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. In addition, Youth Council members should have opportunities to develop their capacity to perform their role over the course of a year. Towards these ends, the following activities took place in 2012:

- Induction sessions were held over the course of 3 meetings in March and April and include a game that identified WCC functions, services and budgets. Jane Patterson, the Manager of the Consultation and Engagement team, provided an overview of the WCC's advisory groups and of the role of the Youth Council. Cr Marsh presented on formal roles of councillors and officers, and on the WCC's policy and decision making processes
- One member took part in the Human Rights Commission's National Youth Forum on Cultural Diversity with the Mayor's rangatahi, Alex Michael Taniwha. The forum was held in Auckland in August.
- One member attended the Youth Forum on regional governance in Porirua, hosted by the Independent Panel on Wellington Region Local Government Review
- Two members attended the Festival for the Future 2012 at Te Papa in November

Communications

With the help of Richard MacLean from the Communications and Marketing team, the Youth Council began to actively develop a media profile in 2012. To support this, it further developed its Communications Policy.

The Youth Council achieved prominent coverage in the Dominion Post and on radio about its proposal for an adult playground in Wellington. It achieved national coverage on radio networks and on Prime News regarding its position on national alcohol policy.

The Youth Council signalled in its last Annual Report that it would like to begin publishing an e-newsletter in 2012. Instead of doing this, it further developed its Facebook page.³ The Youth Council appointed a member to administer it. By regularly updating and refreshing it, particularly with WCC content publicising Wellington, the number of people who 'like' the page has grown by 12% to 514.

Achievements

This section summarises some of the Youth Council's achievements in 2012, including information about the advice it has given, the work programme it has developed, and its improved systems and work practices.

Advice

The Youth Council provided advice on a wide range of topics to Wellington City Council and other bodies. This is detailed in Appendix 4 and included:

- 7 written submissions to WCC
- 2 oral submissions to WCC
- Early advice to WCC officers on 4 topics
- 2 written submissions to the Greater Wellington Regional Council
- 1 written submission to the Independent Panel on Wellington Region Local Government Review
- 1 written submission to Central Government

In 2011, the Youth Council produced a total of 6 written submissions. With 11 written submissions completed in 2012, this output almost doubled. In addition to this, it should also be noted that the Youth Council made 2 oral submissions to WCC. This is something that has not happened before during the tenure of any of the current members.

Work programme planning

The Youth Council went through a comprehensive process to develop its work programme in mid-2012. This was done by reviewing activity across all the WCC's portfolio areas and then prioritising the findings down to a manageable number of themes. The Youth Council will be working on the following themes into 2013:

- Youth and economic development
- Youth-focused civics work
- Youth and Emergencies

³ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wellington-City-Youth-Council/268731020626?ref=stream>

- Youth discounts
- Adult playground

Improved systems and practices

The Youth Council has greatly improved its productivity over the last two years by improving its systems and practices. In 2011, the Youth Council started forming working groups to progress work between meetings and it started a 'portfolio' system to monitor issues and activities across the WCC's portfolios. In 2012, the use of these work practices intensified and paid dividends in terms of the amount of advice produced and in the development of its own work programme (see sections above).

In addition to working groups and the portfolio system, the Youth Council further improved its systems and practices during 2012 by using online services to:

- Store, share and modify documents
- Schedule ad hoc working groups meetings
- Enable discussion and decision-making between formal meetings.

The Youth Council would like to acknowledge and thank Loomio for the free use of its online discussion and decision-making tool.

Appendix 1. Youth Council Membership

Youth Council membership at November 2012

1. Duncan Armstrong
2. Zoe Doole
3. Bing-Ying Lou
4. Jack Marshall
5. Ben Oglivie
6. Cameron Oldfield
7. Stevenson Pule
8. Edgardo Vincent Reyes
9. Devon Robinson
10. Lily Simmons-Donaldson
11. Roma Simmons-Donaldson
12. Brydon Sundgren
13. Brittany Trilford
14. James Wall-Manning
15. Zared Wall-Manning
16. Morgan Watkins

Resignations during 2012

1. Ruth Corkill
2. May Palemia
3. Ani-Piki Tuari
4. Therese Kyne

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

Figure1. Age

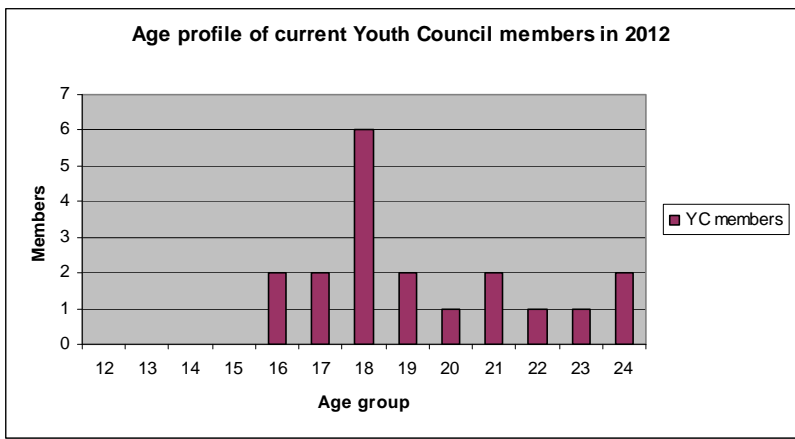


Figure 2. Gender

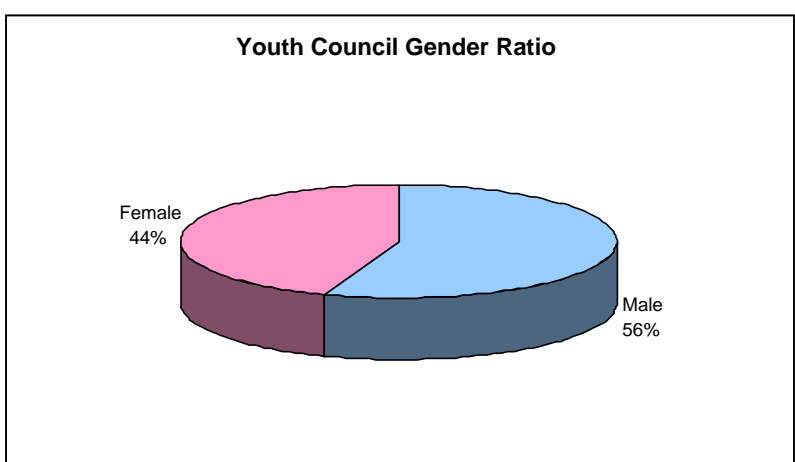


Figure 3. Occupation

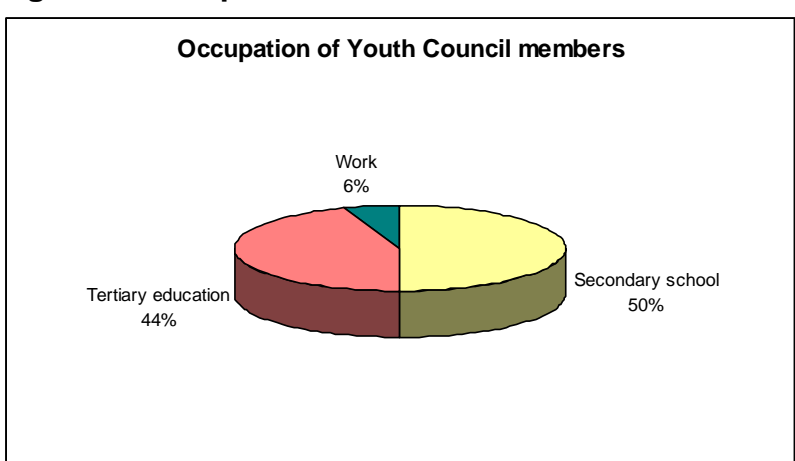


Figure 4. Place of residence



Figure 5. Schools Representation

| Name of School | Number of representatives |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Onslow College | 1 |
| Queen Margaret College | 1 |
| St. Patrick's College | 3 |
| Tawa College | 1 |
| Wellington East Girls' College | 1 |

Appendix 3. 2012 Youth Council Meetings

| Date | Agenda topics | No of members who attended |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 8 Feb | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Recruiting new members • Process for electing chairs • Feed back on Lease Policy review • Youth Council’s draft Annual Report for presentation to SPC on 23 February • Draft submission: Green paper on vulnerable children • Draft submission: Draft accessibility action plan • Questions from prospective new members | 10 |
| 22 Feb | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Electing chair and deputy chair • Draft submission: Green paper on vulnerable children • Draft submission: Draft accessibility action plan • NZ Qualifications Authority, draft Pasifika Strategy 2012-2015 consultation – joint fono with Pacific Advisory Group in March or early April? • ‘What the Council does’ session for Wellington Mission for Youth • Induction: ‘What the Council does’ | 15 |
| 7 Mar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group for Wellington Mission for Youth session • Induction game: What does the Wellington City Council do? • Cr Daran Ponter, GWRC, Bus Review | 14 |
| 21 Mar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme – assigning portfolios • Induction session: Jane Patterson (Manager, Consultation and Engagement), Advisory groups and the Youth Council’s role • Bus review submission • Update from working group for Wellington Mission for Youth session | 13 |

ANNEX 1

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| 4 Apr | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme – assigning portfolios • Induction session: Cr Marsh on formal roles of councillors and officers, WCC policy and decision making processes • Update from working group for Wellington Mission for Youth session • Forming a Long Term Plan Working group • Duncan Reid, Boys and Girls Institute (BGI), survey project | 12 |
| 18 Apr | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Forward Programme • Youth Council work programme • Wellington Mission for Youth session • Conflict of Interest | 14 |
| 2 May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/ Forward programme • Youth Council Work Programme • LTP submission • Tim Crooks to present on draft Events Policy • Conflicts of Interest • Wellington Mission for Youth update • BGI update • Drop Box • Other events | 11 |
| 16 May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Long Term Plan submission • Events Policy submission • Report on Wellington Mission for Youth session • Conflicts of interest | 14 |
| 30 May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/Forward programme • Regional Governance (Elise Webster) • Ratify Events Policy submission • Review Long Term Plan submission • Conflicts of interest • Youth Council dinner, after meeting on 13 June | 15 |
| 13 Jun | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/ Forward programme • Regional governance • Media – adult playground coverage and strategy • Events Policy feedback from Tim Crooks | 12 |
| 27 Jun | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/ Forward programme • Regional governance submission to WCC • Digital Earth Summit • Loomio –online, collaborative decision making tool (Ben Knight) | 12 |

ANNEX 1

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|--------|--|----|
| 11 Jul | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/ Forward programme • Regional Governance submission • Initial comments on Loomio • Digital Earth Summit – who wants to get involved, especially in ‘Growing Up Digital’ theme? | 11 |
| 25 Jul | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCC feedback on LTP submission • Focusing our work programme • Youth Council dinner • Photo shoot • Regional Governance • Digital Earth Summit | 12 |
| 8 Aug | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/ forward programme • Resignations • GWRC fares review • Working groups for economic development & emergencies work • Mani Mitchell, Intersex issues | 16 |
| 22 Aug | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios/ forward programme • Philippa Bowron and Nelson Sheridan on Destination Wellington and other WCC economic development initiatives • Neville Brown, Programme Director of WCC's earthquake work • Powershift conference | 8 |
| 5 Sep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolios /forward programme • Mark Jones & Mike Oates, Open Spaces review • Averill Clarke & Mike Oates, Developing the adult playground idea • GWRC Fare Review | 10 |
| 19 Sep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devon Robinson & Alex Michael Taniwha, Reflections on Diversity Forum (4.00 pm) • Mark Jones, Review of last weeks Open Spaces Strategy work. • Jason Paul, WREMO, Youth and emergency management. • Regional governance submission to the independent panel • Resignations and recruitment for 2013 | 8 |
| 3 Oct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Spaces: surveys • Youth and Emergency Management: Towards a Youth Council approach • Recruitment for 2013 • Engaging with lower socio-economic youth • Youth Council Communications Policy • YC Annual Report 2012 | 10 |

ANNEX 1

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|--------|--|----|
| 17 Oct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Spaces Network: prioritisation – Mark Jones • Youth and Emergency Management: Towards a Youth Council approach – session II • Engaging with lower socio-economic youth • North Kumutoto Design Brief project – Sherilyn Hinton | 6 |
| 31 Oct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Rosenberg, Economist and Director of Policy at the Council of Trade Unions • 5th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum • Working group for a submission on the draft Town Belt Management Plan and proposals for legislation • Engaging with lower socio-economic youth | 10 |
| 14 Nov | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self review and key messages for annual report • Regional Governance • Adult Playground • Community Gardens • Last meeting and end-of-year celebration • Questions from prospective members | 5 |
| 28 Nov | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report • Emergency Management • Town Belt submission • GWRC bus review report • Working group on regional governance • Questions from prospective members | 6 |
| 12 Dec | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol engagement Feb/Mar 2013 and summer working group • Workshop on the future of libraries • Questions from prospective members • Secret Santa • Petanque & picnic | 10 |

Appendix 4. Youth Council Advice in 2012

Advice to Wellington City Council

| Topic | Submissions | |
|--|-------------|------|
| | Written | Oral |
| 1. Draft Accessible Wellington Action Plan: 2011-2014 | ✓ | |
| 2. Draft Long Term Plan 2012-22 | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3. Draft Events Policy | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4. Local Government Reform in Wellington | ✓ | |
| 5. Draft Leases Policy for Community and Recreation Groups | ✓ | |
| 6. Town Belt Legislative & Policy Review | ✓ | |
| 7. Draft North Kumutoto Design Brief | ✓ | |

In addition to the formal advice listed above, the Youth Council provided:

8. Early advice to officers on the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill
9. Early advice to officers to help develop the new Open Spaces Strategy
10. Input to a workshop on the North Kumutoto Design Brief
11. Input to a Wellington City Libraries project on the future of libraries

Non-Wellington City Council advice

12. Written submission to the Greater Wellington Regional Council regarding the Wellington City Bus Review
13. Written submission to the Greater Wellington Regional Council regarding the Public Transport Fare Review System
14. Written submission to the Independent Panel on Wellington Region Local Government Review and participation in the Panel's Youth Forum
15. Written submission to the Government on the Green Paper on Vulnerable Children