
Wellington City Youth Council Annual Report

*For the year ended
31 December 2016*

Wellington City Youth Council
Te Rūnanga Taiohi o te Kaunihera o Pōneke

**He ika kai ake i raro,
he rāpaki ake i raro.**

As a fish begins by
nibbling from below,
so the ascent of a
hill begins from the
bottom.

Whakatauki

Introduction

Mihimihi

Under the Youth Council Terms of Reference, Youth Council must report back to Council on the previous year's operations. Having undergone a period of transition within the operations of Youth Council, we are presenting the 2016 and 2017 Youth Council Annual Reports together.

I would like to pay tribute to Siobhan Davies, the Chair of Youth Council in 2016, for her dedication to Youth Council and advancing the work done by young people around Wellington.

Youth Council had a successful year in 2016, working to better engage young people in the 2016 Local Authority elections, with some outstanding social media content produced by Youth Council to promote young people's ability to vote.

On the policy front, Youth Council provided feedback to both Wellington City Council and Parliament in 2016, on a variety of topics including the 2016/17 Annual Plan, Play Spaces Policy, and the Healthy Homes Bill.

Of equal importance, Youth Council was successful in applying for funding from the Ministry of Youth Development to develop a framework for youth engagement in Wellington. This enabled our work in 2017, which is more fully described in the Annual Report for that year.

As is always the case, 2016 was a year of significant growth for Youth Council, with the constant evolution of the work we do requiring our group to adapt our ways of working to best serve the community. Having become a member of Youth Council in 2016, I was as excited then as I am now to continue providing a voice for Wellington's young people on the issues that matter to them.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Olsen".

Brad Olsen

Queen's Young Leader - 2016

Youth Council Chair

July 2018

Purpose

Ngā take

The Wellington City Youth Council's purpose is to:

Assist and advise

Assist and advise the [Wellington] City Council on how to help grow a great City where young people thrive and contribute to the City Council's priorities

Bring insight

Bring extra insight to Council (a youth perspective) to solve problems facing a changing world

Develop members

Develop the capabilities of its members (including leadership and engaging wider youth).

Membership

Mematanga

The following people were members of the Wellington City Youth Council during 2016:

Siobhan Davies	Chair
Ollie Michie	Deputy Chair (until March 2016)
Melissa Gibson	Deputy Chair (from March 2016)
Anya Bukholt-Payne	Cameron Wright
Jack Comer-Hudson	Jack Marshall
Niamh Hyde	Petelo Leaupepe
Sean Johnson	Sebastian Klinkum
Sophie Reedy-Young	Teri O'Neill
Tim Rutherford	
Damon Rusden	Term ended August 2016
Justina Koh	Term ended August 2016
Brad Olsen	Term started August 2016
Dexter Smith	Term started August 2016
Jackson Lacy	Term started August 2016
Laura Somerset	Term started August 2016
Shine Wu	Term started August 2016
Siobhan McCarthy	Term started August 2016

Policies and plans

Kaupapa here

In accordance with the Joint Letter of Agreement, Youth Council submitted on various proposed policies and plans. However, due to the Local Authority elections which took place in October 2016, there were fewer opportunities than in previous years to submit.

The full list of submissions and consultations Youth Council participated in throughout 2016 is set out below:

- Submission on the 2016/17 Annual Plan (to WCC)
- Submission on the Wellington Play Spaces Policy (to WCC)
- Submission on the Healthy Homes Bill (to Parliament)
- Provided feedback on the Animal Bylaw/Cat Policy
- Applied for funding from the Local Government Youth Projects Fund (to the Ministry of Youth Development), and were successful

Youth Council highlights the following submissions and our feedback:

Submission on the 2016/17 Annual Plan

Youth Council broadly supported Council's Annual Plan.

In particular, Youth Council provided feedback on young people's views on the Low Carbon Capital Plan, and the target that Council set itself to achieve. Youth Council was also supportive of the switch to electric buses that was signalled in 2016.

Youth Council also submitted on the need to explore options to reduce sewage sludge going into Wellington's landfills. We also noted our support for Council's change to water laterals cost burden. We reiterated our support for a proposed Urban Development Authority, which we viewed as important to ensure optimum land use.

Finally, Youth Council noted our support for both the changes in Zealandia's governance, and our support for the increase in provision for the living wage.

Submission on the Wellington Play Spaces Policy

Following consultation with young people in Wellington, including prospective Youth Council members, the Youth Council submitted in support of the Play Spaces Policy.

In particular, Youth Council supported the focus on maintaining formal playgrounds rather than building larger numbers of new playgrounds, with an emphasis on the regular updating of playgrounds and their surrounding areas. We were pleased to see that children and carers with disabilities had been thoughtfully considered in the policy, but urged a greater emphasis on making play spaces as inclusive as

possible.

We supported Council's direction to provide play spaces that cater to a younger demographic, alongside calling for the addition of new spaces for activities such as skating and biking to increase inclusivity and would encourage recreational sport, which was noted as a priority by Youth Council. We were also supportive of the integration of the natural environment with play spaces.

Finally, we endorsed the consideration that Wellington City as a whole is a play space, with the playful design in spaces like laneways and the waterfront.

2016 Local Government Elections

Ngā Pōtitanga ā-Rohe 2016

The Joint Letter of Agreement set out that Youth Council should “develop a project to encourage young people in the Wellington City district to vote in the 2016 local body elections.” Therefore, Youth Council developed a social media strategy to reach out to young people, inform them of the elections, and encourage them to participate.

Youth Council recorded this social media campaign as a success and heard good informal feedback from young people with regard to the communication that the local elections were occurring. Although no age breakdowns for voters is available for local authority elections, we are confident our efforts increased young people's understanding and awareness of the elections process.

Member development

Whakahiato mema

To develop the capabilities of its members, Youth Council created a professional development programme that all Youth Councillors would participate in, as was noted in Youth Council's 2015 Annual Report. The programme was based on Youth Council feedback about skills it felt would be useful to develop, both for Youth Council-related work, and personal development. These workshops included meeting etiquette, event management, recruitment, writing submissions, and presentation delivery.

These were delivered throughout 2016.

Acknowledgements

Ngā aumihi

Youth Council thanks our various supporters and those that enable us to do the work we do, including parents, friends, colleagues, and in particular Council officers and elected members.

We additionally extend our gratitude to Youth Councillor Jackson Lacy for his incredible design skills across the year, including his work formatting this Annual Report.

Youth Council looks forward to presenting this report to the City Strategy Committee in August 2018.



Brad Olsen
Chair
Wellington City Youth Council



Ollie Michie
Deputy Chair
Wellington City Youth Council

20 October 2015

Siobhan Davies

Chair – Wellington City Youth Council
Wellington City Council
101 Wakefield Street, PO Box 2199
WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Siobhan,

Re: Letter proposing the 2016 Work Programme for the Wellington City Youth Council

Purpose of this letter

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Wellington City Youth Council (WCYC) to clarify the Council's priorities and outline Council's expectations for the WCYC for the period January-December 2016. The WCYC is part of Council and I know that your group wants to contribute in the best possible way to our City. This letter will help focus the work of the group so that Council officers can engage with WCYC at an early stage and in an effective way.

WCYC's work over the next 12 months

Council recently finalised its 2015-25 Long Term Plan (LTP). It is important that the work of your advisory group aligns with the priorities of the LTP1.

We want you to bring your experience as a group to help solve problems and find solutions for the work streams below. This is consistent with your group having deeper and more-ongoing involvement with the work-streams of greatest priority to the City.

The following table reflects how we think the WCYC can add greatest value to the Council's forward work programme² and takes account of feedback made during the WCYC meeting held on 10 June 2015, where the Council forward work programme was tabled and discussed. The specific programme and meeting agendas will be set separately.

Work Programme priorities	WCYC input
Member development: A key purpose of the Youth Council is to develop the capabilities of its members; including leadership and engaging wider youth. Council will facilitate the participation of members in relevant development opportunities that benefit all WCYC members, as they arise.	Representation at regional youth council workshops and work collaboratively with officers to develop a professional development programme for the Youth Council and other relevant development opportunities throughout the year.

¹ <http://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans-and-reports/long-term-plan/long-term-plan-2015-25>

² Page 17 of the following GFP Committee agenda: <http://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/committees/governance-finance-and-planning/2015/06/11>

<p>2016/17 Annual Plan: As part of the Council's work to develop the next Annual Plan it is wanting to engage with young people in Wellington on its future direction and key projects that the Council is wanting to progress.</p>	<p>Work with officers to identify and develop opportunities to engage young people in the 2016/17 Annual Plan</p>
<p>Resilience and Climate Change Matters: The Urban Growth Plan will inform Council's focus and investment in urban development and transport as part of the LTP. It brings together and links the strategic approach to, and key projects in, these areas. Various resilience and climate change related work streams will be developed during the course of the year. As part of the development of these projects, Council officers want to engage with Wellington youth on its future direction and key projects that the Council is wanting to progress.</p>	<p>Work with officers to increase public and stakeholder understanding of the Plan. Provide input into key resilience and climate change related policies and plans including (but not limited to) the climate change action plan, the resilience strategy, emission reduction, south coast resilience, housing rental warrant of fitness.</p>
<p>Policies and Plans: The Council will be developing and reviewing key policies and plans over the course of the year. It will work with WCYC members to develop, communicate and elicit feedback from the community on those pieces of work most relevant to young people.</p>	<p>Work with officers to develop, communicate and elicit feedback on key policies and plans including (but not limited to) the playgrounds policy, social strategy, local alcohol policy, sports strategy, city housing strategy and Makara Peak Master Plan.</p>
<p>Submissions on notable matters: Central and local government will be seeking submissions on various matters throughout the year. WCYC may choose to write submissions on these matters.</p>	<p>WCYC to develop and write their own submissions on agreed matters, for example the Resource Management Act and Natural Hazards Strategy.</p>
<p>Elections 2016: Local Government Elections will take place in October 2016.</p>	<p>WCYC to develop a project to encourage young people in the Wellington City district to vote in the 2016 local body elections.</p>

As part of Council's wider engagement, the Council will also consult with other groups on the issues that we bring to WCYC. Furthermore, the above list does not preclude the WCYC from having input into other Council projects and policies as these become apparent during the year. Such items can be considered by WCYC with the agreement of the Chair, Deputy Chair and the Governance Advisor – advisory groups (referenced as Council Liaison Officer in the WCYC Terms of Reference 2014). Additional information on how we see WCYC operating is set out in the Terms of Reference.

Meeting to discuss and agree the work programme

Please discuss the priorities and suggested work-streams outlined in this letter with the WCYC on or before your 28 October 2015 meeting. We would like to finalise and begin working on the programme with you. Please contact me with the WCYC response to this letter by 4 November 2015 so that I can table the finalised work programme letter at the 25 November 2015 WCYC meeting.

Work Programme Reporting

The WCYC reported to the Governance, Finance, and Planning Committee (GFP) on 26 March 2015. The report covered the period February 2014 to February 2015. So that we can move to a position where the annual reports for all advisory groups cover a calendar year, I propose that this year's report covers the period March 2015 to December 2015. That report should be presented to GFP by 30 June 2016. In subsequent years the WCYC annual report will cover the period January to December.

I note that as per the Youth Council Manual, Version Two, July 2015, Pt 3 (Calendar), WCYC will need to update the calendar content and associated copy to reflect the move to calendar vs financial year reporting periods. I look forward to hearing from you.





Yours sincerely



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Wellington City Youth Council

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