

## **Recommendations.**

*The Youth Council recommends that the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee:*

- **Not agree to the proposed changes without the following amendments:**

- 1) *The first bullet point under section 1. Purpose, of the Youth Council's proposed Terms of Reference is amended to read:*

*“**Assist and** advise Council officers ~~on how~~ to help grow a great City where young people thrive and contribute to Council's priorities”*

- 2) *That section 10. Budget, of the Youth Council's proposed Terms of Reference is amended to read:*

*The group will not be given an independent budget **of up to \$5,000** to commission work or undertake activities **that fall within the scope of the purpose specified in this Terms of Reference.** ~~outside of work that is agreed with the City Council.~~ **This budget will be supervised by the Youth Council Liaison Officer.***

- 3) *That the Work Program Process is clarified and amended as being:*

- i. A letter of information is sent to Advisory Groups by the Council;
- ii. Advisory Groups produce a work program;
- iii. The Council can offer feedback on this work program;
- iv. The Work Program for the year is then set.
- v. Note: The Council has the discretion to challenge work program items that they feel fall outside the scope of the Advisory Group.

## **Discussion.**

### **Purpose.**

The track record of the Youth Council shows that the quality of our advice is greatly raised when we engage other young people, which adds real value to Council consultations and community outcomes.

An example of a consultative process that the youth council assisted on is the Local

Alcohol policy workshop. Officers received excellent feedback from young people which was included in the final policy, and the process and outcome received very positive appraisals from both Officers and Councillors.

To this end, it is important that our new Terms of Reference allow for the Youth Council to undertake a role in actively assisting the Council with engagement and consultation of young people in the city.

### **Resourcing.**

The Youth Council has achieved many excellent things in recent years, even while being limited to undertaking these projects with a funds composed of small grants and even contributions from members themselves. The relative speed and simplicity of being allocated even a very small independent budget would increase Youth Council's capacity for quality engagement and consultation greatly, and decrease the administrative burden on Officer Liaisons.

The practice of funding Youth Councils is commonplace in New Zealand. In the Wellington Region, both Kapiti and Porirua youth AGs maintain a modest budget to undertake youth based projects and initiatives, and many other Youth Council's around the country maintain independent budgets.

The Youth Council feels that we are ready for a budget. Over previous years they have developed their skills and processes to enable meaningful engagement that adds value to Council consultations

### **Work Programme.** / Work Plan -

The work programme process needs to reflect the *partnership* between the Council and the city's young people, and allow the Youth Council and other advisory groups to apply their efforts to the areas which are important to, and make most difference for their relative communities.

The currently proposed process sees Officer-proposed work areas assumed to be included in the final programme, whereas AG suggestions face a burden of proof to show that they are worthwhile. AGs' purpose is to bring the views of communities the Council finds hard to get feedback from and do not have other effective channels to engage with. We agree with the proposal paper that "Advisory Groups add greatest value where their work is tailored to priorities that matter most," and would suggest that members of AGs are the best placed to decide what Council work areas are those which matter most to the communities they are there to assist the Council with engaging.

Establishing a work plan which is not primarily directed by those AGs fundamentally undermines their reason for being.

While we recognise the importance of a formalized work plan, it is essential that this reflects the priorities of AGs.