



9.2 YOUTH PLACES FEASIBILITY REPORT

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present Council with the outcomes of the Youth Places Feasibility Project Stage 2, including a summary of the Councillor Workshop held on 5 June 2019, follow up actions of the Councillor Workshop, and seeks Council's approval to commence detailed investigations on establishing a program of grants to address gaps in recreational opportunities for young people.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The City of Port Phillip's (CoPP) Council Plan 2017 – 2027 has committed to ensuring access to services that support the health and wellbeing of our growing community. A key priority in the Council Plan and the CEO's Performance Plan is to "investigate the feasibility of a dedicated youth space, including through potential partnership arrangements".
- 2.2 The Youth Places Feasibility Project commenced in February 2018 with the aim to study the possibility and need for a dedicated youth facility. Two phases of work have been conducted to date:

Phase 1: undertaken from 22 February 2018 to 30 June 2018 which included the following deliverables:

- mapping of existing youth services and programs and identification of service and program gaps.
- engagement and consultations with young people and their families, key service providers, schools and community organisations; and internal council staff.
- benchmarking of other LGA youth facilities.
- initial GIS mapping of research data to inform the initial assessment and identification of possible locations and council-owned properties; and
- initial review of three identified council-owned sites as specified by ELT in January 2018;
- Councillor Workshop – held on 13 June 2018.
- Youth Places Feasibility Report 1.

- 2.3 Phase 2: conducted from 1 July 2018 to 30 December 2018 which included the following deliverables:

- in-depth consultations with young people, service providers and LGA representatives to obtain more input in relation to design principles, service models and governance arrangements



- focus groups with three cohorts of vulnerable young people
 - completion of GIS and service mapping
 - review of best practice service models
 - assessment of council-owned and non-council-owned properties
 - Councillor Workshop – held on 5 June 2019
 - Youth Feasibility Report 2.
- 2.4 A Councillor workshop was held on 5 June 2019 that presented Councillors with information on service gaps and needs, key outcomes of the Youth Feasibility Report 2 and Youth Places options.
- 2.5 Council was presented with four Youth Places options including;
1. *Stay as we are and provide advocacy for others to address facilities, recreation, access needs/gaps*
 2. *Make additional funding grants available to address gap (facilities, recreation, access) and continue current services (**recommended option**)*
 3. *Reconfigure our existing services by stopping what we are doing and redirect funding to meet facilities, recreation and access needs*
 4. *Further investigate capital investment in a youth facility*
- 2.6 This report seeks Council's decision on Youth Places options and next steps for the project.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Council approves further investigating Youth Place Option 2: to make additional funding grants available to address gap (facilities, recreation, access).

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Current gaps identified through the Youth Places Feasibility Study are;
- Lack of generalist services offering a range of recreational programs that encourage constructive use of time and skill building activities
 - Lack of suitable physical spaces for young people to access recreational programs and meet other young people in the City of Port Phillip.
- 4.2 Key findings of Phase 1 of the Youth Places Feasibility Study included;
- Recreation, art and engagement opportunities, particularly those free-of-charge, were consistently identified as needed across the municipality by young people.
 - Parents and community members identified the need for young people in the municipality to have a safe, welcoming, accessible place to go with friends; where they could access support services where required.
 - Service providers highlighted the need for young people to be prepared for changes in the labour market in the future, and identified that young people maybe more likely to experience increased social isolation and family disconnection as parents continue to become more time poor and work longer hours.



- 4.3 Key findings of Youth Places Feasibility Phase 2 as outlined in Report 2 included;
- Port Phillip is rich in tertiary/crisis services for young people, but there are fewer services that provide prevention, early intervention and generalist services for young people – this has been identified as a service gap for Port Phillip.
 - Both young people and services identified that if a youth place was established it should be in a place with close proximity to public transport routes and nodes, and close to where other services are located, so that if referrals are made it is easy for a young person to access services.
- 4.4 Key recommendations of Youth Places Feasibility Report 2 included;
- Continue to invest in youth services, as adolescence is a time where investment is pivotal, and deliver services and programs that support young people through evidence-based practice.
 - Council continue to provide through direct service or funding a broad range of structured and unstructured programs that enhance young people’s health & wellbeing, engagement and leadership. Ensure that recreational services and spaces enable young people to explore their interests (i.e. arts, music, recreational pursuits)
 - Develop a service model for a youth place that focuses on the provision of prevention, early intervention and generalist services and programs for young people delivered in partnership with external youth service providers and community organisations.
- 4.5 Four Youth Places options were identified as alternatives to a dedicated youth facility option based on the assessment of needs and gaps, consultation and feedback from young people and stakeholders, spread of young people throughout the municipality, and the lack of compelling evidence that a single purpose-built youth facility is the most suitable and feasible option. These four options were discussed with Councillors at the 5 June 2019 Councillor Workshop.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Three sessions were delivered consulting three areas conducive to a Youth Facility; 1 x Youth Forum and 2 x Service Provider workshops (Community service providers and Local Government Youth Services). In addition, data was collected in the form of Neighbourlytics, “geotagging” inclusive, and data filtering to assess where young people congregate and live.
- 5.2 In total, 63 stakeholders were consulted in the second phase of the consultation:
- Youth Forum – 29 young people
 - Service Provider workshop – 11 representatives
 - Expert workshop – 8 representatives
 - Focus groups – 15 young people
- 5.3 Consultations indicated
- the need of a youth facility that offers services in the areas of health, support services and engagement/activity-based and recreational services.



- Prevention/early intervention and generalist programs in relation to issues relating to mental and sexual health, drug and alcohol use, LGBTIQ support, homework/studying, employment, social/community connection and recreation
- A space where young people could relax and engage with a range of both structured and unstructured programs
- Detailed information available on service governance and feedback about existing youth facilities (from stakeholders)

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal and/or risk implications of the Youth Places Options Report

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 Operational costs for a project officer has been approved under the 2019/20 financial year.
- 7.2 There may be other costs associated with Council decision on Youth Places options investigations not yet identified.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 There is no environmental impact in the Youth Places Feasibility Project.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The investigation of youth place options delivers on Council's Youth Commitments 2014-19 of
- #4 Constructive use of time,
 - #7 Social Competencies,
 - #8 Positive Identity and
 - #2 Empowerment.
- 9.2 As outlined earlier in this report, through consultations young people report a lack public youth friendly spaces to meet, access constructive use of time through activities and programs, build relationships and community connections.
- 9.3 The Resilience Survey conducted over four years by Council Youth Services highlights the importance of providing young people with opportunities to connect with their community. The outcomes of the investigation of Youth Place Options can support the development of youth friendly spaces and increase levels of community belonging.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 The City of Port Phillip's Council Plan 2017-2027: We are Port Phillip is the strategic foundation document underlying the council's activities and strategic directions going forward. The 2017-2027 Council Plan integrates community and health and wellbeing objectives reflected in the following priorities that are relevant for families, children and young people.
- **Strategic direction 1 - We embrace difference, and people belong.**
 - 1.1 A safe and active community with strong social connections
 - 1.2 An increase in affordable housing



1.3 Access to services that support the health and wellbeing of our growing community

1.4 Community diversity is valued and celebrated

- **Strategic Direction 2 - We are connected and it's easy to move around.**

2.3 Our streets and places are designed for people

- **Strategic Direction 5 - We thrive by harnessing creativity.**

5.3 A City where arts, culture and creative expression is part of everyday life

Port Phillip City Council's Plan (2017-27) sets out Council's vision for the municipality and the key deliverables for the period between 2017 and 2027 and identifies the need for a dedicated youth space within the municipality to meet the needs of an expanding youth population (Strategic Direction 1:1.3). The plan focuses on Port Phillip as a welcoming place supporting a diverse and healthy community and a thriving local economy with a strong emphasis arts and culture.

The City of Port Phillip's (CoPP) Council Plan 2017 – 2027 has committed to ensuring access to services that support the health and wellbeing of our growing community. A key priority in the Council Plan and the CEO's Performance Plan is to *"investigate the feasibility of a dedicated youth space, including through potential partnership arrangements"*.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

11.1.1 Upon Council decision commence investigation of the approved option

11.1.2 Report back to Council on updates of investigation in early 2020

11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 A Communications and Engagement plan will be developed following the endorsement of the recommended option in this report.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

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ATTACHMENTS Nil