

CITY OF ARMADALE

AGENDA

OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, 7 ORCHARD AVENUE, ARMADALE ON TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.00 PM

A meal will be served at 6:15 pm.

PRESENT:

APOLOGIES:

OBSERVERS:

IN ATTENDANCE:

“For details of Councillor Membership on this Committee, please refer to the City’s website – www.armadale.wa.gov.au/your_council/councillors.”

DISCLAIMER

The Disclaimer for protecting Councillors and staff from liability of information and advice given at Committee meetings to be read.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

QUESTION TIME

DEPUTATION

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

Minutes of the Special Community Services Committee Meeting held on 19 October 2009 be confirmed.

Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 3 November 2009 be confirmed.

Moved

MOTION CARRIED ()

ITEMS REFERRED FROM INFORMATION BULLETIN – ISSUES NO. 20/2009

The following matters were included for information in the Community Services section – Issue No. 20/2009:

- **Outstanding Matters & Information Items**
Report on Outstanding Matters – Community Services CommitteeC-1
- **Monthly / Quarterly Departmental Reports**
Library & Heritage Services General Monthly Report – October 2009.....C-2
Manager Ranger & Emergency Services Monthly Report – October 2009 ..C-9
- **Minutes of Occasional/Advisory Committees**
Connected Communities Armadale Inc. – 8 October 2009 C-17/“CA-3”-24
Disability Advisory Team Meeting – 3 November 2009C-17/“CA-4”-26
CoA Highland Reference Group Meeting – 20 October 2009 .C-17/“CA-5”-29

If any of the items listed above require clarification or a report for a decision of Council, this item to be raised for discussion at this juncture.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

8 December 2009

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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****OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION GRANT**

WARD ALL
FILE REF: CD/I/1
DATE 24 November 2009
REF SR
RESPONSIBLE Executive Director
MANAGER Community Services

In Brief:

This item advises that a grant application for \$20,000 (exclusive of GST) from the Office of Crime Prevention has been successful for two projects relevant to the City's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. It requests Council endorse the grants receipt and expenditure in accordance with Section 6.8 of the Local Government Act.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Building Our Community

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

Acceptance of the grant will increase Council's income and expenditure by \$20,000 for the 2009/10 Budget.

Consultation

BACKGROUND

The City of Armadale's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan (2005 – 2010) was formulated as part of a partnership agreement with the Office of Crime Prevention. Following a mid-term review of the Plan in 2008, the Office of Crime Prevention advised the City it was eligible to apply for grant funds of \$20,000 for applicable projects.

The City submitted two projects for funding:

- a) Drama workshops for at risk primary school age children (\$5,000);
- b) A youth-branded series of events (\$15,000).

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The City has been advised it has been successful for funding of a total of \$20,000 for the following projects:

a) Drama Workshops for at Risk Primary School Children

Drama workshops will be held after school and during the school holidays throughout the year with performances every three months. Workshops will consist of role play, ice breakers and communication skills to promote positive group interaction. The target group is 'at risk' students at the (3) local primary schools, aged 8-12 years.

The expected outcomes include:

- Engagement of families and referrals to appropriate services that can assist with issues resulting in anti-social and criminal behaviour;
- Four community performances with themes reflecting issues faced by the children most likely including keep safe and anti-crime messages.

b) Youth-Branded Series of Events

Consultation sessions will be held with local young people to create a series of youth events. A series of free small scale youth activities will be run in the Jull Street Shopping precinct, for example, street theatre, art and hip hop.

The expected outcomes include:

- Reduction in the incidence of anti-social behaviour in and around the Armadale Shopping City complex;
- Create a program of youth events in consultation with local young people;
- Reduce the fear of crime amongst the community and local business.

CONCLUSION

Analysis

In November 2008, as part of the mid-term review of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan, the City of Armadale organised a facilitated workshop designed to get input to a 'whole of City' response.

Four priority areas were identified for the City namely:

- a) Drugs and Alcohol Misuse;
- b) Anti-social Behaviour;
- c) Volume Crime;
- d) Violent Crime.

Under these priorities the youth focus included:

- Increased consultation with youth in the development of programs;
- That service providers should actively engage 'at risk' young people;
- Youth engagement as opposed to youth enforcement.

The projects submitted for Office of Crime Prevention funding were formulated in response to the youth focus areas.

Options

Council has the following options:

1. Accept the funding and authorise the expenditure to provide drama workshops and a youth-branded series of events to the amount of \$20,000 (GST exclusive).
2. Agree to one or other of the projects and accept the funding accordingly.
3. Not agree to accept the funding, nor authorise the expenditure to provide drama workshops and a youth-branded series of events to the amount of \$20,000 (GST exclusive).

Option 1 is recommended.

Conclusion

Support for the two projects will provide young people with educational and diversionary activities that may lead to a reduction in anti-social behaviour throughout the City of Armadale and more specifically, the Jull Street Mall.

RECOMMEND

That Council:

1. **Accept the Office of Crime Prevention Grant of \$20,000 (GST exclusive) for the purpose of funding Drama Workshops and a Youth Branded Series of Events.**
2. **a. Pursuant to Section 6.8 of the Local Government Act (1995) authorise the following new expenditure:**
 - Office of Crime Prevention Grant \$20,000 (GST exclusive)**
- b. Amend the 2008-2009 Annual Budget as follows:**
 - Expense**
 - Community Projects [220228.1490.02]**
 - Increase by \$5,000**
 - Jull Street Mall Concerts [221828.1092.02]**
 - Increase by \$15,000**
 - Revenue**
 - Community Safety Grants [120202.1521.02]**
 - Increase by \$15,000.**
 - Community Activities Grants [120202.1523.02]**
 - Increase by \$5,000**

****ABSOLUTE MAJORITY REQUIRED**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

YOUTH ACTIVITIES AREA

WARD ALL
FILE REF: CD/Y/2
DATE 20 November 2009
REF PGQ
RESPONSIBLE Executive Manager
MANAGER Community Services

In Brief:

This report provides an update on the status of the proposal to develop a Youth Activities Area (YAA) in the City Centre and recommends that Council:

1. Formally accept the Lotterywest grant of \$300,000 and OMCF grant of \$100,000 for the proposed Youth Activities Area in the City Centre.
2. Officers proceed with detailed design and documentation for the Youth Activities Area with a view to advertising the tender for construction early in 2010.
3. Refer for consideration as part of the 2009-10 half yearly budget review, the following revised funding arrangement for the proposed Youth Activities Area:

DSR grant requested	\$200,000
CoA – Municipal funds(2010-11)	\$260,000
CoA – POS funds(2010-11)	\$100,000
OMCF grant	\$100,000
Lotterywest grant	\$300,000

Total Project Cost **\$960,000**

4. Receive a further report on the YAA project following the announcement of the DSR grant application in March 2010.

Tabled Items

N/A

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

- Facilitate a wide range of social and cultural experiences
- Deliver a range of services to meet community needs
- Implementing community plans for youth
- Revitalising the Armadale City Centre

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

The report has the following potential financial implications for the 2010-11 budget:

- The report recommends that Council refer for consideration as part of the 2009-10 half yearly budget review an additional contribution of \$160,000 towards the Youth Activities Area for reasons outlined in this report.
- Operational maintenance and asset renewal costs for the proposed facility– estimated at \$55,000 per year have been allocated in the 15 Year Financial Plan.

Consultation

An extensive and ongoing dialogue with stakeholders has been in progress regarding this initiative since the proposal was first mooted in 2001.

BACKGROUND

The proposal to provide a Youth Activities Area (YAA) in the Central Business District (CBD) has been reported to Council on several previous occasions. Following consideration of a detailed report to the July 2009 Community Services Committee, Council resolved (C25/7/09) as follows:

“That Council receive a further report via the December 2009 Community Services Committee that includes:

- a. confirmed funding arrangements;*
- b. findings of further investigations;*
- c. subject to finance not being available through grant funding sources, that the project be considered for funding during the mid year budget review.”*

At that meeting Council also reaffirmed that the site adjacent to the City of Armadale Administration Centre on Orchard Avenue was still the preferred site for the proposed facility.

A further report presented to the October 2009 Community Services Committee recommended that the City submit a grant application to the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) requesting a \$200,000 contribution to the project. It was noted in that report that due to likely cost increases in the two year period since the original estimates were obtained which was \$900,000; the revised cost of the project had increased by \$60,000. If Council wished to retain the current design for the proposed facility, it would need to increase its financial contribution to cover the likely cost increases.

Since that time the City has also received confirmation that the Lotterywest grant application for \$300,000 has been approved for the project.

Council’s current financial commitment to the project is \$200,000, being \$100,000 POS funds and \$100,000 municipal funds. If the DSR grant application is successful, the total

funds available for the project will be **\$800,000** (excluding cost escalation), which may require a review of the scope of the project in order to keep within the reduced budget.

This report provides an update on the status of the project and presents a proposal to proceed to the next stage of planning.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

A summary of the current status of the project is as follows:

- The CSRFF grant application was submitted to DSR at the end of October 2009 as the City's No. 2 priority project. The outcome of the application will be advised in March 2010.
- The City has received written confirmation that grants from Lotterywest (\$300,000) and the Department of Local Government and Regional Development – OMCF (\$100,000) have been approved. A condition of the OMCF grant however is that the project must be commenced before 30 June 2010 or the grant may be withdrawn.
- In order to progress planning for the project a full survey of the site has been undertaken.

An important consideration for Council relates to the timing of the project. A Council contribution of \$200,000 is currently allocated in the year 2010-11 of the 15 Year Financial Plan. Under normal circumstances tenders for the construction of the proposed facility would be invited as soon as possible after the adoption of the budget in August, and depending on the availability of the contractor construction would commence late 2010 or early 2011.

The dilemma for Council is that a condition of the OMCF grant of \$100,000 requires construction to be commenced before 30 June 2010. The other consideration is that the outcome of the DSR grant application for \$200,000 won't be announced until early March 2010 which, in turn would leave little margin for delay if the City is to comply with the OMCF grant condition and commence construction in June 2010.

Although full funding for the project is yet to be confirmed, given that \$400,000 in grants has already been approved, it is considered unlikely that Council would withdraw its support for the project at this stage. The following proposal is presented for consideration:

1. Council formally accept the Lotterywest grant of \$300,000 and OMCF grant of \$100,000 for the proposed YAA.
2. Proceed with detailed design and documentation for the YAA with a view to advertising the tender for construction early in 2010.
3. Refer for consideration as part of the 2009-10 half yearly budget, the revised funding arrangement for the project i.e.

DSR grant requested	\$200,000
Council contribution – Municipal funds	\$260,000
Council contribution – POS funds	\$100,000

OMCF grant	\$100,000
Lotterywest grant	\$300,000
Total Project Cost	\$960,000

4. Receive a further report on the YAA project following the announcement of the DSR grant application in March 2010.

COMMENT

Analysis

As outlined in earlier reports to Council, considerable research and planning has been undertaken on the proposal to construct a YAA in the CBD and the need for the project has been justified and supported by Council.

So as not to jeopardise the OMCF grant of \$100,000 this report seeks Council's commitment to proceed to the next stage i.e. prepare detailed design and tender documents, and advertise the tender.

If the DSR grant application is not successful and Council does not wish to contribute additional funds to the project to make up the shortfall, it would still have the opportunity at that point to reconsider its commitment to the project and possibly not accept any tender for construction.

Options

If Council is not supportive of the proposal outlined in this report the following alternative options are presented for consideration:

1. Defer any further planning for the project until the outcome of the DSR grant application is known in March 2010. The disadvantage with this option is that there would be insufficient time prior to June 2010 to prepare the necessary plans and documents, invite tenders, appoint a contractor and commence construction. Under this scenario Council would need to apply to the Department of Local Government and Regional Development for an exemption from the grant condition that requires the project to be commenced by 30 June 2010. Whilst this may be possible, there are no guarantees that the exemption would be approved.
2. Redefine the scope of the project to accommodate potential budgetary restrictions. Under this option Council could redesign and reduce the scope of the project in order to fit within confirmed funding allocations i.e. \$600,000. If this was Council's preferred approach, it would be recommended that any redesign of the facility not take place until after the outcome of the DSR grant application is known.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined in this report it is recommended that Council:

1. Formally accept the Lotterywest grant of \$300,000 and OMCF grant of \$100,000 for the proposed Youth Activities Area in the City Centre.
2. Officers proceed with detailed design and documentation for the Youth Activities Area with a view to advertising the tender for construction early in 2010.
3. Refer for consideration as part of the 2009-10 half yearly budget review, the following revised funding arrangement for the proposed Youth Activities Area:

DSR grant requested	\$200,000
Council contribution – Municipal funds	\$260,000
Council contribution – POS funds	\$100,000
OMCF grant	\$100,000
Lotterywest grant	\$300,000
Total Project Cost	\$960,000

4. Receive a further report on the YAA project following the announcement of the DSR grant application in March 2010.

RECOMMEND

That Council:

1. **Formally accept the Lotterywest grant of \$300,000 and OMCF grant of \$100,000 for the proposed Youth Activities Area in the City Centre.**
2. **Officers proceed with detailed design and documentation for the Youth Activities Area with a view to advertising the tender for construction early in 2010.**
3. **Refer for consideration as part of the 2009-10 half yearly budget review, the following revised funding arrangement for the proposed Youth Activities Area:**

DSR grant requested	\$200,000
Council contribution – Municipal funds	\$260,000
Council contribution – POS funds	\$100,000
OMCF grant	\$100,000
Lotterywest grant	<u>\$300,000</u>
Total Project Cost	\$960,000

4. **Receive a further report on the Youth Activities Area project following the announcement of the Dept of Sport and Recreation grant application in March 2010.**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

YOUTH PLAN REVIEW

WARD ALL
FILE REF: CD/Y/2
DATE 18 November 2009
REF NK
RESPONSIBLE Executive Manager
MANAGER Community
Services

In Brief:

This report reviews the City's Youth Plan and proposes a broad based Youth Strategy which provides direction for a Community-based approach towards Youth Development over the next three years.

Related to this review is Council's decision in August 2009 (CS85/8/09) *that the YAC be discontinued pending the outcomes of the Youth Plan Review which is anticipated to be completed by December 2009 with a further report to Council by this time*

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Building Our Community

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications

The Youth Strategy, as proposed in this report, is designed to direct current resources to priority areas rather than to generate new unfunded initiatives. Any projects that may be brought forward over and above those outlined in the proposed Strategy and that require additional resources, would be considered as part of the City's normal budgeting process.

Consultation

Information from the following consultative initiatives has informed this report:

- Youth Recreation Needs Survey (2001)
- Armadale Youth Precinct Study (July 2007)
- City of Armadale Youth Survey, 2,045 responses (December 2008)
- Mission Australia Youth Survey (2007)
http://acys.info/youth_facts_and_stats/attitudes/attitudes2007/mission_australia_survey2007
- United Nations Declaration of Intent on Young People
- Internal consultation between City Departments
- Discussion with the Public Transport Authority
- Discussion with the Department of Sport and Recreation
- Ongoing dialogue with local youth focused organisations and agencies

BACKGROUND

Local Governments in Western Australia are not required to have a Youth Plan, unlike the requirement to have a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan or a Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. However, like most local governments, the City sees the benefits in considering how to best engage with young people and how the City can assist in implementing initiatives that result in good outcomes for young people, and to articulate this thinking in a youth-focussed plan.

The City's first Youth Plan was developed in 1998 and reviewed in 2003. In 2007, a major *Youth Precinct Study* was undertaken, commissioned by the City of Armadale and jointly funded with the Department of Transport and Regional Services. In addition to providing strong direction in the area of Youth Development, the *Youth Precinct Study* incorporated the consultation and research from which the *Youth Activity Area* initiative was generated.

It is important to note that 'Youth' is a generic term and relates to an age cohort (12 – 25) which, as with any age group, comprises people with a very broad range of interests, aspirations, strengths and needs. This particular age range also covers the most dynamic period of personal development during which young people are subject to many influences (positive and negative) and require a great number of specific support programs to help meet needs and develop potential. Determining priorities for the City's involvement in this incredibly wide ranging concept of 'youth development' will ensure that the City's role complements efforts in the broader community and the best outcomes can be achieved.

There are many ways that young people are supported, starting of course with family and friends. The importance of family and friends is reinforced in the most recent Australia-wide Mission Australia Youth survey (2009) in which young people were asked what was most important to them. The most frequent responses were:

- Family and friendships are the most important things in the lives of most young people.
- The most significant areas of concern for young people are Drugs, Suicide and Body Image.
- Young people turn to friends, parents, family friends/relatives for advice and support.

As part of the survey, young people were also asked to nominate what they thought were key emerging issues. The most frequent responses were:

- Family Conflict;
- Drugs;
- Mental Health;
- Financial Issues;
- Personal Safety.

Following family, many organisations influence and support young people. These include schools, sporting clubs, churches, interest groups, service clubs, not-for-profit organisations and the various levels of government. The City of Armadale is well served in having a number of not-for-profit service providers, local churches and community groups that provide excellent services and programs for young people. Examples include the many local junior sporting clubs, Armadale Youth Resources, Armadale PCYC and Champion Lakes Christian Church.

The City's Youth Portfolio sits in the Community Development area and tends to be the focus of its Youth-related initiatives; however there are many other aspects of the City's core business activities that impact young people. These include:

- Planning for, and providing public open space;
- Support for junior sporting activity including the provision of grounds and facilities for organised sport;
- Provision of facilities such as skate parks, libraries, Armadale Arena, Aquatic Centre and the Champion Centre;
- Direct funding of youth-focussed organisations including Armadale Youth Resources, Drug Arm, PCYC, School Chaplaincies, school P&Cs, various churches and other organisations that provide youth services;
- Coordinating youth-focused events and activities such as youth activities as aspects of the Minnowarra Festival, the 'Outside the Frame' Art Awards for year 11 and 12 students and the Banners in the Terrace project;
- Coordination of the Armadale/Gosnells Landcare Group;
- Individual financial support for young people representing the State or country and financial support for young people from Armadale who are studying at the Australian Technical College;
- Coordinating the Richard Sheppard Memorial Student awards for year 11 and 12 Aboriginal Students;
- Coordinating youth-focused programs at the Arena, Champion Centre and the City's libraries;
- Support for externally coordinated youth-focused activities such as the Slingshot event held at the Aquatic Centre and the Head of the River at Champion Lakes.

While there are many areas in which the City will continue to support young people, there will be a need to focus significant resources, including staff time, on the following emerging issues:

- The proposal to develop a Youth Activity Area in the CBD. The management of the YAA including; scheduling of events and activities, the involvement of youth-focused agencies and the participation of young people, working in collaboration with other stakeholders, will be crucial to the success of this facility.
- Increased focus on young people using the Armadale Train Line. Some criminal and anti social behaviour by a small number of people, including some young people, is adversely affecting the perception the broader community has towards young people and could damage the reputation of Armadale as a public transport destination.
- Increasing levels of obesity in children and related health and self esteem issues
- Determining how best to support young people as the demographics in the area change. It is expected that there will be a 'bulge' in the proportion of young people in the general population as the large numbers of young children moving into the area, or being born here, age. Support will also be required for specific demographic groups of young people, such as those moving into the area from other parts of the world.

The meaningful involvement of young people in decision-making processes is vital to the success of any Youth Strategy. Judge Denis Reynolds, President of the Children's Court of Western Australia recently made the following comments on this issue:

“Who better to identify root causes of behaviour, solutions, the best way of communicating with young people and the likely responses by young people than young people themselves.

Empowering young people and giving them ownership of solutions is the best means of maintaining their participation and cooperation in programs and enhancing or restoring their connection with community.”

Many LGAs, including the City of Armadale, have coordinated Youth Advisory Councils (YACs) to create links between the City and young people. While there have been some dedicated young people who have provided valuable input through the City of Armadale YAC, it has proven to be extremely hard to attract all but a handful of young people, and in particular, a diverse range of young people to become involved. This trend has been recognised by Council in its decision in August 2009 (CS85/8/09) to suspend the YAC pending this review.

As effective youth engagement is fundamental to the success of any Youth Strategy it is clear that the City needs to consider very carefully different approaches to the traditional YAC model in order to facilitate a meaningful dialogue with young people.

The Youth Strategy proposed in this report takes an holistic community-wide approach that aims to incorporate the issues previously described in a framework with four key focus areas:

- **involving young people** in decision-making processes;
- **strengthening networks** that link the community effort focused on young people;
- **identifying priority issues** for young people in the City of Armadale;
- **identifying the City’s role** as one of a number of stakeholders in addressing youth issues

As with many community development activities, measuring the success of youth development initiatives is sometimes difficult using traditional quantitative key performance measures. For example; as a matter of course, the City seeks funding for many projects including youth projects and so the level of grant funding received could be seen as an appropriate indicator and maximising funding revenue as a target.

However, it may be that the most effective programs are not particularly expensive, or that the City has assisted to a greater or lesser degree, an external group to access funding rather than seeking grants directly. In fact, consistent with philosophy of the City as ‘service provider of last resort’, officers will always try to build capacity in external groups to take on additional initiatives before considering the City as a lead agency for new projects. While it is very important to have effective review mechanisms and performance measures in place, these need to be geared towards the broader community outcomes and may at times be more qualitative in nature.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

CITY OF ARMADALE YOUTH STRATEGY 2010 - 2012

Focus Area 1 INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE

Aim

The input of young people is heard, valued and acted on when developing and managing relevant projects.

Strategies

- Work with schools and youth organisations to identify opportunities to gain feedback on important issues using their existing programs.
- Engage with young people on ‘their turf’ such as skateparks, schools and sporting organisations to gather feedback on relevant issues.
- Develop consultative processes as part of youth-based initiatives such as school holiday programs, community art projects or through the young women’s group operating from the Champion Centre.
- Convene special issues or project-based forums with young people that have a clear purpose and develop clear and achievable goals.
- Form a working group that includes young people to advise on the development and management of the Youth Activity Area.

Key Success Factors

- A broad range of young people engage in dialogue with the City.
- Direct and positive feedback is received from young people who have participated in consultative initiatives.
- Projects identified by young people are undertaken in a timely manner.
- Consultative initiatives have a clear purpose, develop specific objectives and have successful outcomes.

Focus Area 2 STRENGTHENING NETWORKS

Aim

Free flowing communications between youth-focused organisations and agencies to ensure a shared understanding of issues; identify opportunities for collaboration and advocate key messages to decision makers.

Strategies

- Maintain an active involvement in sector forums such as SERVIA (South East Regional Inter Agency network), LYGON (Local Government Youth Officers Network) and YACWA (Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia).
- Convene regular management group forums of agencies operating from the Champion Centre.

- Maintain strong links with schools through joint development of initiatives such as breakfast clubs, community art projects and the Outside the Frame art award, and ensure that school chaplains are engaged in consultative processes.
- Ensure youth-focused organisations have a profile at the regular contact lunches held for community groups, agencies and service providers.
- Liaise regularly with junior sporting clubs through the City's Club Development Officer.
- Maintain an active involvement in SERRAG (South Eastern Regional Recreational Advisory Group)
- Develop and maintain strong links with Polytechnic West (previously Swan TAFE) and the Australian Technical College.
- Develop and maintain strong links with service clubs and the business sector to identify opportunities for their involvement in training, leadership development and employment opportunities for young people.
- Convene special forums to discuss and workshop specific issues.

Key Success Factors

- High attendance at forums indicating interest, relevance and motivation.
- Partnerships and joint initiatives are developed as a result of the networking effort.
- The main focus of the City's role in youth development is in facilitating outcomes rather than directly coordinating projects.

Focus Area 3

IDENTIFYING PRIORITY ISSUES

Aim

The community-wide effort on youth development is being directed where it is needed most.

Strategies

In addition to ongoing programs and activities, a strong community-wide focus is required on the following priority issues during the life of the Youth Strategy:

- Construction of the Youth Activity Area and development of related management plans, activities and outreach programs, educational strategies and design changes to skater 'hotspots' in the CBD.
- Encourage greater participation by young people in sport and recreational activities.
- Work with stakeholders to develop and implement initiatives that encourage responsible use of public transport.
- Develop further, initiatives that engender community participation, support civic development and the leadership aspirations of young people.
- Engage with agencies and other levels of government to ensure that emerging and future trends in the profile of the youth demographic are identified in order to anticipate appropriate service delivery and support options.

Key Success Factors

- Effective management plans, outreach services and educational initiatives are implemented for the Youth Activity Area.
- Activities at the Youth Activity Area include elements of broader community events which attract a wide range of community members.

- Greater numbers of young people participate in sporting and recreational activities, particularly young people from groups who are less inclined to be involved in physical activity.
- Young people engage in initiatives that encourage community participation, support civic development and leadership aspirations.
- Programs and support services relevant to specific demographic groups are anticipated and implemented in a timely manner.

Focus Area 4 **THE CITY'S ROLE**

Aim

The best community outcomes are achieved with minimal intervention by the City.

Strategies

As one of many stakeholders with a focus on youth development the City can:

- help build capacity in local service providers and youth-focused organisations to develop and implement programs.
- facilitate partnerships between external organisations to develop initiatives.
- provide support to youth-focused organisations commensurate with their capacities to enable outcomes to be achieved.
- enter partnerships with community groups to jointly develop initiatives.
- where no other options exist, consider the role of lead agency, particularly in relation to initiatives addressing priority issues.
- take a leading role in developing partnerships that support the activation of the Youth Activity Area.
- facilitate a stakeholder group that includes young people to develop management plans and advise on activities and services associated with the Youth Activity Area.
- work with the Public Transport Authority, Department of Sport and Recreation, and local youth organisations to develop initiatives that encourage more responsible use of the public transport system by young people.
- continue the development of the Champion Centre as a 'one stop shop' for the effective delivery of services to Aboriginal people including young Aboriginal people.
- continue its ongoing youth-focused initiatives including:
 - direct funding to youth-focused organisations and projects through the community grants and annual contributions programs.
 - individual financial support for young people representing the State or country and financial support for young people from Armadale who are studying at the Australian Technical College.
 - continued support for junior sporting activity including planning for adequate quality open space for organised sport in the City's growth areas.
 - coordinate youth-focused events such as elements of festivals, art awards, Banners in the Terrace, school holiday programs, community art projects and Armadale/Gosnells Landcare group activities.
 - youth-focussed activities and programs at the Armadale Arena, Aquatic Centre and the City's libraries.
 - coordinating the annual Richard Sheppard Memorial Student awards for year 11 and 12 Aboriginal Students.

- support for externally coordinated youth-focused activities such as the Slingshot event held at the Aquatic Centre and the Head of the River at Champion Lakes.
- Assisting external youth-based organisations to promote their services, programs and events to young people and in the broader community.

Key Success Factors

- Significant progress is made towards the objectives of the Youth Activity Area.
- Development of the Champion Centre as a one-stop shop for the delivery of services for Aboriginal people.
- The City takes a leading role in bringing stakeholders together to address specific issues as they arise.
- The City proactively engages with agencies and other levels of government to forecast potential changes to the demographics of young people and related services.
- The City's program of ongoing youth initiatives is successfully implemented.

Accountability

MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEWING

The City's Community Development Department is the custodian of the Youth Strategy and is responsible for monitoring its progress. The effectiveness of the strategies in achieving outcomes will be tested using the key success factors and reported on a six monthly basis to stakeholders.

It is proposed that the Youth Strategy, in the form proposed, has a three year life and is reviewed in the second half of 2012 to ensure that it remains relevant beyond that period.

COMMENT

Analysis

The proposed strategy aims to provide a broad framework that provides strong guidance in key areas over the next three years. While there are a number of specific projects outlined, such as the City's role in the development of the Youth Activity Area, many strategies require a community-based approach in which the City's role will vary depending on the capacity of external agencies to respond. In essence, the strategy sets out a mechanism where by:

- Issues are clearly identified;
- Community wide responses are developed ;
- The City's role in those responses is clearly defined.

Consistent with the City's approach as the service provider of last resort, officers will always look to capacity in the community for responses before considering taking on direct service delivery. There are many benefits in this 'Maximum Outcome with Minimum Intervention' approach including:

- Building capacity in local organisations;
- Creating an environment of collaboration between stakeholders;
- Engendering ownership of issues and solutions;

- Far greater pool of expertise to consider issues and responses;
- Significant advocacy power to other levels of government.

Most significantly, this approach works towards creating a stronger, more resilient and sustainable community.

Options

The following options are presented as considerations:

1. Endorse the proposed City of Armadale Youth Strategy 2010 – 2012, as proposed.
2. Amend the Strategy and endorse an alternative version.
3. Reject the proposed Strategy.

Option 1 is recommended.

Conclusion

The City of Armadale has a significant population of young people who, as with the general population, have widely differing interests, aspirations, strengths and needs. As with all young people, the City's youth has a right to participate fully in community life and help create the future in which they will have such a significant stake.

The United Nations Declaration of intent on Youth articulates very well the responsibility that society has towards young people. The Declaration of Intent applies equally to young people in the City of Armadale as anywhere else in the world and underpins the strategy proposed in this report.

*RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
[without reference to a Main Committee (A/50/728)]
50/81. World Programme of Action for Youth to the
Year 2000 and Beyond*

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF INTENT ON YOUTH:

The States Members of the United Nations have agreed to work towards achievement of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, inter alia, the promotion of higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development. Young people in all parts of the world, living in countries at different stages of development and in different socio-economic situations, aspire to full participation in the life of society, as provided in the Charter, including:

- (a) Attainment of an educational level commensurate with their aspirations;*
- (b) Access to employment opportunities equal to their abilities;*
- (c) Food and nutrition adequate for full participation in the life of society;*

(d) A physical and social environment that promotes good health, offers protection from disease and addiction and is free from all types of violence;

(e) Human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion or any other forms of discrimination;

(f) Participation in decision-making processes;

(g) Places and facilities for cultural, recreational and sports activities to improve the living standards of young people in both rural and urban areas.

RECOMMEND

That Council endorse the City of Armadale Youth Strategy 2010 – 2012 as proposed in this report

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

ACTING SENIOR POSITION – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

WARD: ALL
FILE REF: HR/ECS/10
DATE: 30 November 2009
REF: YC
RESPONSIBLE Chief Executive
MANAGER: Officer

In Brief:

This report:

- Provides advice of the Executive Director Community Services' (Ms Yvonne Coyne) Long Service Leave, and
- Seeks Council endorsement of the Chief Executive Officer's recommendation to appoint the Executive Manager Community Services (Mr Neil Kegie) to the position of Acting Executive Director Community Services for the period Monday, 14 December 2009 to Friday, 8 January 2010, inclusive.

Tabled Items

Nil

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Legislation Implications

Nil

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Council Policy & Management Practice ADM 12 "Acting Senior Positions".

Budget/Financial Implications

The higher duties payment associated with this matter is provided for in the adopted 2009-10 Annual Budget.

Consultation

Chief Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Nil

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The Executive Director Community Services will be taking a portion of her Long Service Leave from Monday, 14 December 2009 to Friday, 8 January 2010, inclusive and during this time, the Chief Executive Officer recommends that the Executive Manager Community Services (Mr Neil Kegie), be appointed Acting Executive Director Community Services.

RECOMMEND

That Council:

- a. **Note that the Executive Director Community Services (Ms Y Coyne) will be taking a portion of her Long Service Leave from Monday, 14 December 2009 to Friday, 8 January 2010, inclusive, and**
- b. **Pursuant to Management Practice ADM 12 and on recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer, appoint the Executive Manager Community Services (Mr Neil Kegie) to the position of Acting Executive Director Community Services for the period Monday, 14 December 2009 to Friday, 8 January 2010, inclusive.**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ()

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

COUNCILLORS' ITEMS
