7.4 ADVERTISING OF DRAFT YOUTH ACTION PLAN 2026 AND BEYOND DELIVERABLES

Attachments: **1. Draft Youth Action Plan 2026 and Beyond Deliverables**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council APPROVES the draft Youth Action Plan 2026 and Beyond deliverables, at Attachment 1, for the purpose of community consultation.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

For Council to approve, for the purpose of community consultation, the draft Youth Action Plan deliverables as detailed at **Attachment 1.**

DELEGATION:

Council is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation, the Youth Action Plan 2026 and Beyond deliverables are required to be adopted by Council to embed the Council and Community's expectations.

BACKGROUND:

Youth Action Plans (YAP) guide how local governments engage with and support young people aged 10–25. They identify key focus areas and actions to address any current gaps. The YAP aligns with the City's Strategic Community Plan 2022–2032 supporting priorities such as Healthy & Connected Community, Thriving Places, and Innovative and Accountable. The YAP is also informed by broader frameworks including the Western Australian Government's Youth Action Plan.

Vincent has a long-standing commitment to supporting young people with the current Youth Action Plan 2020–2026 being developed in two phases to respond to changing circumstances, including the impacts of COVID-19.

Phase one (2020–2022) focused on extensive community consultation including the City of Vincent WA Youth Forum in October 2019 and a six-month engagement period, during which over 400 young people, community members, service providers and government agencies contributed. This phase established priorities around health and wellbeing, recreation, community support and education and employment opportunities.

Phase two (2022–2026) builds on these insights, analysing feedback and refining deliverables to ensure the Plan remains responsive to emerging youth needs and opportunities, with clear actions across wellbeing, participation, leadership and skills development.

With the Youth Action Plan 2020-2026 approaching the end of its lifecycle, this is the opportunity to review, update and refine it to ensure it continues to reflect the needs, priorities and aspirations of young people in Vincent.

DETAILS:

The Youth Action Plan 2026 and Beyond will present a clear, cohesive set of priorities, actions and deliverables.

In November 2024, the City engaged Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA) to lead the development of the YAP, facilitate youth and community consultations and mentor a peer research team to deliver youth-led engagement. As WA's peak body for young people, YACWA works with government, community organisations and youth to influence policy, deliver programs and strengthen participation and leadership. Their expertise ensured that all youth-focused initiatives were evidence-based and informed directly by young people's perspectives.

Project Initiation and Research

Over a two-month period the City worked with YACWA to lay the groundwork for the YAP. This included developing a project plan with clear milestones, establishing consultation and communication strategies and identifying key stakeholders. Concurrently, both teams conducted a comprehensive review and research phase, analysing youth demographics and trends, reviewing City documents and strategies, examining state-wide issues and trends, and assessing current youth services and programs.

Consultation and Engagement

The development of the Plan's deliverables was guided by an extensive engagement process with young people, community members and organisational stakeholders, ensuring the priorities and perspectives of Vincent's diverse youth community are reflected.

YACWA recruited five peer researchers from Vincent to drive the youth-led engagement. Their training focused on surveying and conducting peer interviews, with additional guidance on handling disclosures, mandatory reporting and ethical engagement. Ongoing guidance and support from YACWA helped ensure the consultations were safe, youth-led and reflective of the community's needs. This approach helped shape deliverables that authentically represent the experiences, priorities and aspirations of young people in Vincent.

The survey was open to the public from April to May 2025. During this consultation period, the following engagement activities were conducted:

- Online and in person youth surveys
- Online parent/caregiver surveys
- Pop-up consultation sessions at:
    - Loftus Recreation Centre
    - Beatty Park Leisure Centre
    - Mt Hawthorn Junior Football Club
    - Bob Hawke College Healthy Lifestyle Expo
    - Young Makers Christmas Market
    - Unstoppable All Abilities Youth Week Event
- Workshop with the YMCA Youth Squad
- Workshop with North Perth Primary School
- Two community workshops with Aranmore Catholic College
- Online and in person meetings with community groups and sporting clubs
- Online and in-person meetings with key external stakeholders
- In-person feedback from internal business units
- Promotion at City run community workshops, events and activities.

An Imagine Vincent page was developed for the consultation process containing background information and details of how to participate. Communications channels used to promote the consultation included social media, flyers, posters, street signage in key locations and e-news. Information was also sent by email to relevant stakeholders (Foyer Oxford, The Y, Aranmore Catholic College, School of Distance Education, SEDA and all primary schools) as well as to clubs and community groups.

During the five-week consultation period from April to May 2025 feedback was received from:

- Young people aged 10–25
    - 327 youth survey respondents
    - Six youth interviews
    - 70 workshop participants
    - 275 postcard surveys completed
- 74 parents/caregiver surveys

Feedback was also received from:

- Eight youth service providers and community organisations
- 14 City staff
- 27 other community members.

This comprehensive consultation approach ensured representation across diverse age groups, cultures, abilities and interests, while encouraging younger participants to engage early in local decision-making.

Consultation Findings

The consultation provided a wide range of insights into what matters to young people in Vincent, highlighting both strengths to celebrate and areas where improvements could be made. 327 survey responses were received (approximately 6.8 per cent of Vincent's youth population), of which:

- 45% of respondents were aged 10 to 17 who live, work, study, volunteer, or access services in Vincent
- 55% of respondents were aged 18 to 25 who live, work, study, volunteer, or access services in Vincent
- The highest number of responses (13%) were received from 17 year olds
- The lowest number of responses (1% each) were from 11 and 13 year olds
- 31% identified as LGBTIQA+
- 18% identified as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
- 30% identified as neurodivergent
- 28% identified as having mental health condition
- 3% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Young people praised Vincent's green, walkable and shaded environment, with Hyde Park and Charles Veryard Reserve particular favourites. They described the City as friendly, vibrant and diverse, with a strong creative identity through street art, live music and local culture. Leederville's café scene was seen as youthful and social and most felt safe during the day. The Y HQ was identified as a key youth space, alongside valued services like Perth Inner City Youth Services, Foyer Oxford and the Freedom Centre.

The biggest barriers to participation were cost and not knowing what's available. Many young people said they struggle to afford sport and events and want more free, safe 'third spaces' to connect without pressure to spend. Parents and service providers echoed these concerns, adding transport and safety as key issues.

A significant number of respondents identified as neurodivergent or LGBTIQA+, reinforcing the need for inclusive, sensory-friendly activities. Many also reported low awareness of health and wellbeing supports, relying first on friends and family before formal services like Headspace. Safety after dark was a recurring concern, particularly with reference to lighting, anti-social behaviour and street crossings.

Young people called for more diverse, low-cost and youth-led events. Many felt current options were too child-focused or too adult-oriented. They also wanted better access to jobs, skills training, volunteering and creative industries, including practical workshops and pathways that link to real experience.

Communication was also mentioned as a challenge. Young people reported mostly hearing about what's going on through friends and Instagram, while parents rely on word-of-mouth, schools and Facebook.

Creation of the Draft Plan

In September 2025, prior to creating the draft deliverables for the Plan, an additional 219 young people helped prioritise key themes emerging from the consultation. These insights directly shaped the Plan's four focus areas:

- **Place and Belonging** – Creating safe, welcoming, and youth-friendly spaces.
- **Wellbeing and Inclusion** – Reducing barriers and supporting young people through mental health services, accessible programs and inclusive opportunities
- **Youth Leadership and Engagement** – Providing opportunities for young people to contribute and share their perspectives.
- **Opportunity** – Developing clear pathways for skills, creativity, volunteering and employment.

Feedback from these focus areas informed the draft Youth Action Plan 2026 and Beyond deliverables. This plan builds on the Youth Action Plan 2020–2026 by continuing to support young people's wellbeing, social participation and access to opportunities, while maintaining core commitments such as youth-friendly spaces, safe and inclusive environments, community event participation and engagement with local services.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

Community consultation on the draft deliverables will be undertaken for a period of 21 days in accordance with the City's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy.

A comprehensive, youth focused communications plan will be developed to promote the consultation.

It is proposed that the draft Youth Action Plan 2026 and Beyond be released for public comment from 17 November to 8 December 2025

Organisation Implementation

Organisations lead engagement and seek input, shape the policies, projects and services for which they are responsible. This is a familiar and traditional approach to policy development, project management and service delivery.

Tension: People feel forced leading to an unresponsive process.

Mitigation: Increasing the level of influence, and implementing a transparent, robust process.

You are expected to by community

A robust process to engage with the community and stakeholders

LEGAL/POLICY:

There is no legal requirement to have a Youth Action Plan.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Low: It is low risk for Council to adopt a Youth Action Plan.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032*:

Connected and Healthy Community

Our many cultures are celebrated.
We have enhanced opportunities for our community to build relationships and connections with each other and the City.

Thriving Places

Art, history and our community's living cultures are evident in the public realm.

Innovative and Accountable

We deliver our services, projects and programs in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and sustainable way possible.
We engage with our community so they are involved in what we are doing and how we are meeting our goals.
Our decision-making process is consistent and transparent, and decisions are aligned to our strategic direction

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

This does not contribute to any environmental sustainability outcomes. This action/activity is environmentally neutral.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the following priority health outcomes of the City's *Public Health Plan 2020-2025*:

Increased mental health and wellbeing

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The actions and deliverables of the Youth Action Plan 2026 and Beyond are included in the 2025/26 operating budget and will need to be considered within subsequent financial year budgets.

Attachment 1 – Draft Youth Action Plan 2026 and Beyond Deliverables

Focus area 1: Place and belonging

We want to make Vincent a place where young people feel safe, welcome and connected. This means improving walkable streets, creating more youth-friendly spaces like libraries, community centres, parks and skateparks and supporting vibrant outlets like street art. Together, these changes will generate more opportunities for young people to hang out, be creative and feel a strong sense of belonging in our community.

1.1	**Young people have access to youth friendly places to spend time with their peers**					
#	**Action**	**SCP outcome**	**Ongoing**	**Short**	**Medium**	**Long**
1.1.1	Explore youth-led initiatives to assess how City spaces and facilities meet youth needs and identify opportunities for improvement.	Innovative and Accountable Accessible City				✓
1.1.2	Activate and promote youth friendly spaces in City facilities (libraries, recreation centres and community hubs) for study, connection and creativity.	Connected & Healthy Community Thriving Places		✓		
1.1.3	Continue to support and strengthen under-age youth live music venues as important spaces for young people in WA	Connected & Healthy Community Thriving Places	✓			
1.1.4	Improve popular youth spaces and ensure future park and outdoor facility upgrades reflect the needs of young people	Enhanced Environment Thriving Places Accessible City	✓			
1.2	**Young people feel safe and welcome in the City**					
#	**Action**	**SCP outcome**	**Ongoing**	**Short**	**Medium**	**Long**
1.2.1	Work with young people to develop an effective method of communication for reporting issues, concerns and safety hazards in the community.	Innovative & Accountable Connected & Healthy Community				✓
1.2.2	Facilitate youth-driven safety audits and youth safety initiatives to identify and address safety issues in public spaces.	Accessible City Innovative and Accountable			✓	

Legend	
Priority	**What this means**
Short	Actions we will begin within the first two years. These are high-priority items and/or require minimal additional resources.
Medium	Actions we will begin within two to three years. These require moderate resources, planning or partnerships before implementation can commence
Long	Actions that are stretch goals and may take significant planning, exploration or resources to achieve.
Ongoing	Actions that are already underway and will continue throughout the life of the Plan.

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Focus area 2: Wellbeing and inclusion

We want to make it easier for young people to get involved in sport, recreation and events and to know what's available in Vincent. We also want to ensure services and spaces are inclusive and accessible for everyone, including young people who are neurodivergent, LGBTIQA+, living with disability, or experiencing mental health challenges. By raising awareness of supports and making sure no one is left behind, we can strengthen connection, wellbeing and opportunities for all young people.

2.1	**Young people can access inclusive and affordable activities and services that reflect their interests and needs**					
#	**Action**	**SCP outcome**	**Ongoing**	**Short**	**Medium**	**Long**
2.1.1	Work with local organisations, businesses and youth service providers to offer try-it passes for activities, continue free entry to City-run youth events and ensure young people are aware of these opportunities through their networks.	Connected & Healthy Community Accessible City		✓	✓	
2.1.2	Provide a program of free youth activities, including opportunities in arts, culture and life skills.	Connected & Healthy Community Thriving Places	✓			
2.1.3	Encourage event organisers to install and promote 'youth zones' and youth activities at relevant community events.	Thriving Places Innovative and Accountable		✓	✓	
2.1.4	Provide engaging, accessible youth programs in community spaces, ensuring opportunities for every young person to participate.	Accessible City Sensitive Design Innovative and Accountable		✓	✓	
2.1.5	Review the City's Youth Development Grant and related funding programs to ensure they align with the goals of the Youth Action Plan.	Connected and Healthy Community Thriving Places			✓	
2.1.6	Embed child safe practices across all City programs, events and facilities involving young people.	Connected & Healthy Community Innovative and Accountable	✓			
2.2	**Young people know where to go for help and are supported by a community that promotes wellbeing and reduces stigma**					
#	**Action**	**SCP outcome**	**Ongoing**	**Short**	**Medium**	**Long**

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2.2.1	Partner with local youth and mental health services to make supports more visible and accessible to young people, including promotion at City events and youth spaces.	Connected &Healthy Community		✓		
2.2.2	Explore community initiatives to better recognise, respond to and understand youth wellbeing by supporting training, sharing resources and running awareness campaigns.	Connected & Healthy Community			✓	
2.2.3	Promote youth study spaces and supports in City facilities after school and during exam periods, inclusive of positive messaging on managing study stress.	Connected & Healthy Community		✓		
2.2.4	Develop a suite of programs specifically designed for neurodivergent, LGBTIQA+, or other marginalised youth, with mentoring and peer support.	Connected & Healthy Community			✓	
2.2.5	Continue to develop relationships with service providers and support them where possible to promote awareness of their services and create links with the wider community.	Connected & Healthy Community	✓			
2.2.6	Participate in local government youth service networks to enhance collaboration and improve outcomes for vulnerable young people	Connected & Healthy Community	✓			

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Focus area 3: Youth leadership and engagement

We want to make sure young people have more opportunities to share their views and have a real say in City decisions. This means improving how we communicate, using social media, peer-to-peer channels and other ways young people prefer, while also keeping parents in the loop through schools and

community channels. We want to recognise and value young people's contributions, involve them in short-term projects and work with existing groups to make engagement meaningful, visible and impactful.

3.1	**Young people have a genuine say in plans and decisions that affect them and are recognised for their contributions**					
#	**Action**	**SCP outcome**	**Ongoing**	**Short**	**Medium**	**Long**
3.1.1	Build organisational capacity and develop clear processes for involving young people in decision-making, planning and design, ensuring their voices are heard and their contributions are recognised.	Sensitive Design Innovative and Accountable			✓	
3.1.2	Continue and strengthen the *Councillor for a Day* program to deepen young people's understanding of local government and promote meaningful opportunities for youth input into civic decision making.	Innovative and Accountable	✓			
3.1.3	Seek youth input on programs, events and communications to ensure they are accessible and engaging.	Connected and Healthy Community Innovative and Accountable		✓		
3.1.4	Provide micro-engagement opportunities with quick, low-commitment options for youth input (polls, short surveys, idea boards) to complement larger co-design projects.	Connected and Healthy Community Innovative and Accountable	✓			
3.2	**Young people are informed and aware of City initiatives and opportunities**					
#	**Action**	**SCP outcome**	**Ongoing**	**Short**	**Medium**	**Long**
3.2.1	Organise some youth focus groups to find out how young people want us to communicate with them to make City opportunities more visible and consistent.	Innovative and Accountable			✓	
3.2	**Young people are informed and aware of City initiatives and opportunities**					
#	**Action**	**SCP outcome**	**Ongoing**	**Short**	**Medium**	**Long**
3.2.2	Explore and trial a peer-to-peer *Amplifier Team* of youth communicators.	Connected & Healthy Community				✓

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		Innovative and Accountable				
3.2.3	Continue to strengthen partnerships with local schools, groups and youth services to promote City events and opportunities directly to young people.	Connected and Healthy Community	✓			
3.3	**The City is open and accountable in working with young people**					
#	**Action**	**SCP outcome**	**Ongoing**	**Short**	**Medium**	**Long**
3.3.1	Engage young people biennially to review progress on the Youth Action Plan and help shape next steps.	Innovative and Accountable		✓		
3.3.2	Co-design and publish a biennial Youth Scorecard with young people to track progress.	Innovative and Accountable		✓		
3.3.3	Monitor and stay up to date with emerging trends, needs and issues affecting young people to ensure City programs and initiatives remain relevant.	Innovative and Accountable	✓			
3.3.4	Keep up to date with State, Federal and Local Government youth policies and programs to make sure City initiatives stay relevant and aligned with current priorities.	Innovative and Accountable	✓			
3.3.5	Support staff training and development that helps them better engage with young people in City projects, programs and activities.	Innovative and Accountable	✓			

Focus area 4: Opportunity

We want to make Vincent a place where young people can build skills, explore their interests and step into work, volunteering and leadership opportunities. That means expanding pathways beyond casual jobs into creative industries, entrepreneurship and practical life skills. We also want to support volunteering and leadership experiences that help young people gain confidence, connect with their community, and thrive as they transition into adult life.

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4.1	Young people are supported to explore and access creative, enterprise and career pathways					
#	Action	SCP outcome	Ongoing	Short	Medium	Long
4.1.1	Continue and strengthen opportunities for young creatives and entrepreneurs through events, mentoring and training in enterprise skills.	Thriving Places Innovative and Accountable	✓			
4.1.2	Build partnerships with local business, schools and community organisations to deliver life skills and employment opportunities for young people.	Thriving Places Connected and Healthy Community			✓	
4.1.3	Continue to provide opportunities for young people to gain job-ready experience through internships and work placements at the City.	Thriving Places Connected and Healthy Community	✓			
4.1.4	Celebration of youth enterprise by hosting an annual event showcasing young entrepreneurs, artists or community project leaders to highlight skills and achievements.	Thriving Places Connected and Healthy Community		✓		
4.2	**Young people build skills and confidence through volunteering and leadership**					
#	Action	SCP outcome	Ongoing	Short	Medium	Long
4.2.1	Encourage local groups and organisations to involve young people in leadership and volunteer roles by building their capacity to recruit, retain and support them.	Connected & Healthy Community Thriving Places			✓	
4.2	**Young people build skills and confidence through volunteering and leadership**					
#	Action	SCP outcome	Ongoing	Short	Medium	Long
4.2.2	Partner with local schools, local business and youth service providers to identify, recognise and celebrate personal or professional achievements, efforts and contributions of young people.	Connected & Healthy Community Thriving Places	✓			

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