Councillor Freeman - MoN - Youth Advisory Panel

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Eleanor Freeman

Public

Contact Officer:
Jo Podoliak, Director, City Community

MOTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Eleanor Freeman will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:

'THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes that the 2021 Census confirmed that the City of Adelaide has a comparatively younger residential population, with almost half of residents (47.1%) aged between 18-34 years old, compared with just 22.8% across Greater Adelaide.
2. Notes that a Question on Notice answered 26 May 2026 confirmed that the City of Adelaide currently engages young people on a case-by-case basis through project-specific initiatives, partnerships and consultation processes, and does not have an ongoing engagement mechanism dedicated to young people.
3. Requests the Administration to develop a proposal for ongoing youth engagement, such as the establishment of a Youth Advisory Panel, that provides the City of Adelaide's younger residents, workers and visitors with meaningful opportunities to participate in civic processes and share their perspectives, ideas and lived experience.
4. Requests the Administration to report back to Council prior to the 2027 Caretaker Period on the draft proposal including proposed membership, terms of reference and associated costs to be considered as part of a future Business Plan and Budget.'

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. The Administration supports the intent of this proposed motion and recognises the value of providing mechanisms that enable young people to contribute to civic decision-making and community outcomes.
2. In June 2026, the Community Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted by Council. The Strategy identifies priority groups including young people (12-25 years).
3. The Strategy outlined six goals, each with three associated priorities. The most relevant goals and priorities related to this proposed motion include:
    - 3.1. Goal Three: People can shape their community.
        - 3.1.1. Priority 3.1 Foster community leadership and capacity building.
        - 3.1.2. Priority 3.2 Value and embed Lived and Living Experience.
        - 3.1.3. Priority 3.3 Partner with the community to co-design services and programs.
4. The City of Adelaide has delivered, facilitated or partnered on a range of initiatives supporting youth leadership and civic engagement. Recent examples include but are not limited to:
    - 4.1. Community Leadership Program 2024 – Applications were invited from young people aged 18 to 30 from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to join the annual leadership program, which in 2024 was delivered as the Welcoming Young Leadership Development (WYLD) Program. The program attracted a record 132 applications, with 16 applicants selected to participate in the seven-month program, consisting of seven sessions.

4.2. Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel – Established in 2013, the Panel aims to connect Council to people's lived experience. The Panel meets quarterly to help shape the access and inclusion outcomes for key projects across the city. There are six organisational members and six individual members on the Panel, including young people.

4.3. Youth Climate Forum 2026 – In partnership with the SA Youth Forum, a youth-led advocacy organisation and youth engagement consultancy, the Lord Mayor's Office has worked with city schools to pilot a Youth Climate Forum. The forum will provide young people with an opportunity to share their views on how the City of Adelaide can prioritise and strengthen action on climate change.

5. In addition to the examples outlined above, the Administration has been working with the Department for Education to better understand how primary and secondary school students attending schools within the city would like to engage with the City of Adelaide, including opportunities to contribute to shaping their communities.

6. Building on this work, the Administration will investigate options for a more structured and ongoing youth engagement mechanism, including the potential establishment of a Youth Advisory Panel. This will include consideration of the purpose, scope, governance arrangements, membership model, resource requirements and alignment with existing engagement activities.

7. Administration notes that contemporary youth engagement models increasingly favour flexible and inclusive approaches that combine advisory structures with project-based and digital engagement opportunities. Accordingly, a range of options will be explored to ensure any proposed model is effective, accessible and responsive to the needs and interests of young people.

8. Should Council resolve to support the proposed motion, the Administration will prepare a report for presentation to Council in Q3 of the 2026/27 financial year, on a draft proposal to establish a Youth Advisory Panel, including proposed membership, terms of reference and associated costs.

Should the proposed motion be supported by Council, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Findings from the Community Wellbeing Strategy consultation can be applied.
External consultant advice	Not applicable
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Not applicable
Impacts on existing projects	Not applicable
Budget reallocation	Not applicable
Capital investment	Not applicable
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	20 hours.
Other	Not applicable
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.

- END OF REPORT –