

Youth Engagement Framework
Te Tuāpapa Whakawhanake Rangatahi

A guide for engaging with young people

2018

Wellington City Youth Council

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Executive summary

Having young people participate fully in their local community is an important aspect of being an active citizen, yet the Wellington City Youth Council has found that young people within Wellington do not feel as connected to their local community and the decisions that are made on their behalf. As a result, Youth Council has sought to construct a Framework owned by young people and the Council to better ingrain youth participation in Wellington.

In 2016, the Wellington City Youth Council received funding from the Ministry of Youth Development to develop this Framework. As part of the development of this Framework, members of the Youth Council travelled to Auckland on a learning tour and spoke to individuals and organisations involved with local government, to examine how youth engagement worked in Auckland, another large urban area. The Youth Council then held five Hui around Wellington, where young people contributed their ideas, and helped shape this Framework.

This Framework was written with the aim of increasing youth engagement with local government in Wellington. Youth engagement is important for increased citizenship, and involvement with their city for young people. Youth engagement is also important to help shape and encourage the leaders of the future.

We recommend that the Council integrates this framework into its engagement practices and that the Framework is reviewed every three years (or as necessary) to ensure it keeps up with developments in youth engagement, and changes in Wellington. This review will be conducted in partnership with the Youth Council.

The aim is that this framework is considered when the Council or other external organisations are considering a change that may impact on young people. It should be considered in stages:

Stage 1: Identify the values that underpin why young people are important stakeholders in relation to this proposed change

Stage 2: Determine the engagement mechanisms you feel would be most appropriate to use, given the values identified in Stage 1

Stage 3: Examine the priority issues identified by young people to check if the change includes one or more of these issues

Stage 4: Go out and engage and consult with young people

Stage 5: Feed back to the young people how their input was used and what the final decision was

Section 1 outlines the values which underpin genuine youth engagement practices. These values – Authenticity, Respect, Inclusivity, Connectedness, Forward Thinking and Involvement – allow for young people to buy into the engagement and feel comfortable and willing to participate.

Section 2 outlines the mechanisms which the Council should use to engage with young people. There are a range of mechanisms, which can be applied either in isolation or in tandem, with different mixes of mechanisms needed in different scenarios, or based on different consultation needs.

Section 3 outlines the themes and priority issues that relate to young people. **Overarching Themes** relate to the specific themes that help determine the significance of an action. **Priority Issues** outline the areas and topics young people in Wellington have themselves identified as important to their lives and the lives of those around them.

Over time with this Framework, it is envisaged that young people will become more willing to participate in consultation and in turn shape their own future as the **Council gains a better, and evolving, understanding of young people's views and the issues they feel to be important to them.**

This increased participation allows for youth to have greater ownership of both Wellington itself and the changes that occur within it, while increasing the diversity of ideas being considered, and increasing the representative nature of local government.

Introduction

The Principles of Consultation contained in s 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 are a driving force behind the creation of this Framework. In particular, subsection (a) provides that:

“persons who will or may be affected by, or have an interest in, the decision or matter should be provided by the local authority with reasonable access to relevant information in a manner and format that is appropriate to the preferences and needs of those persons”

This framework attempts to set out how young people who are affected by decisions in Wellington can best interact with the Council to ensure their views are heard, as set out above by the Local Government Act.

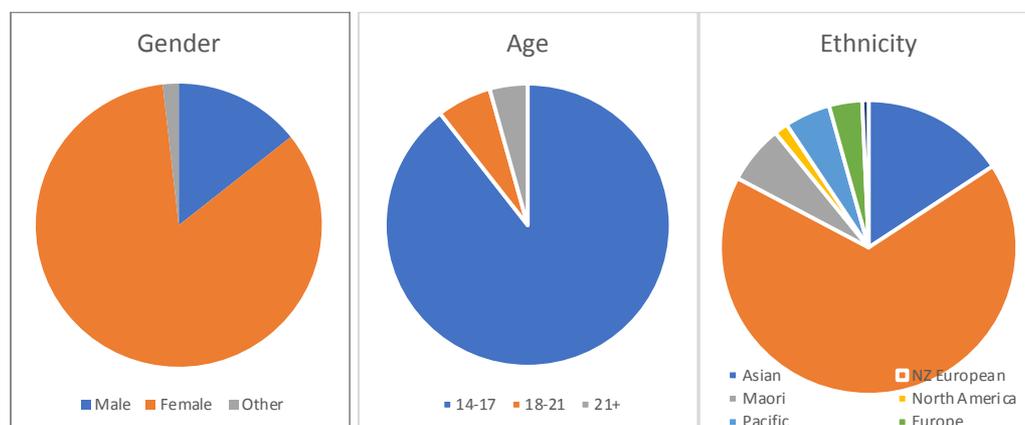
Development of this Framework

In 2016, the Wellington City Youth Council received funding from Ministry of Youth Development's Local Government Youth Projects Fund 2017 for the development of a Youth Engagement Framework.

In preparation for drafting the Framework, a number of Youth Councillors embarked on the Youth Council Learning Tour 2017. They travelled to Auckland in April 2017 to meet with a number of groups and individuals working with young people in another urban area.

In May 2017 Youth Council hosted five Hui around Wellington, including one for youth workers and other youth organisations, and consulted widely with young

people. Youth Council engaged with over 160 young people through face-to-face interactions, online surveys, and school visits. This engagement involved both open-responses to questions posed by Youth Council, alongside broad discussions about what types of engagements young people thought could be best used to engage young people throughout Wellington. The breakdown of those who Youth Council consulted with are detailed below:



This document represents the input and involvement of many young people from across Wellington. The views of young people who provided their ideas during our Hui, and the practical advice taken from meetings during the Learning Tour, has allowed the Youth Council to draft and shape a Framework that allows for comprehensive youth engagement in Wellington, while at the same time setting clear expectations within the Council framework, and also incorporating the views of young people throughout.

Review of this Framework

This Framework should be reviewed every 3 years so that it can remain relevant to the young people of Wellington.

As a result of our ever-changing world, the way that we engage with people will shift and develop over time. The purpose of this Framework is to outline how the Wellington City Council should engage with young people – if it does not evolve over time to relate to future generations of people it will become ineffective.

For this reason, renewing this Framework is crucial in order for the document to maintain integrity. A three-yearly review will ensure the document remains pertinent to young people and will also allow for new, innovative ways of engaging people to be added to the Framework. This review will be conducted in partnership with the Youth Council.

Lessons learnt

Throughout discussions with young people in Wellington, it became clear that one of the most important, yet most often overlooked, aspects for sustaining quality youth engagement was closing the feedback loop.

Young people often do not hear about the resulting decision or change that has occurred subsequent to their participation in consultation, and as such feel less inclined to participate in later events as there is no link between their inputs and the outcome.

It is critical to communicate the result of the consultation to all those who participated, otherwise participants are left feeling that their input did not matter, or that the input could not change anything anyway.

Use of the Framework

This Framework is designed to be used internally by Council staff as guidance when seeking to engage with young people. It is designed as a foundation from which engagement can be constructed through and should be viewed as advisory not prescriptive.

An overview of young people in Wellington

Statistics New Zealand's 2016 estimated population for Wellington is 208,000. Of this, it is estimated that 34.0% are young people aged 0-24. Young people aged 14-24 make up 17.6% of Wellington.

Of the approximately 70,000 young people aged 0-24 in Wellington, the largest component is 20-24 year olds, making up 31.7% of the youth population (0-24). Those aged 15-19 make up 20.1% of young people in Wellington.

Based on 2013 Census data, young people add diversity to Wellington. 12.0% of **young people in Wellington identified as Māori, compared to 8.4% for the total** Wellington population, while 7.0% of young people identified as Pasifika, compared to 5.0% of the Wellington total.

Young people in Wellington almost perfectly mirror the gender distribution for the Wellington total population, with 50.2% males and 49.8% females.

Statistics New Zealand's medium population projection sees Wellington grow to over 222,000 by 2023, and 250,000 by 2043.

Wellington youth population grows to 72,000 by 2023, and 73,500 by 2043.

Defining the scope of youth engagement

To increase youth engagement in Wellington, it is important that the issues in this area are well understood. Young people spoke of feeling detached from the Council. They felt unsure about what the Council did, and of the day to day functions of the Council.

In the experience of Youth Council, once young people know the relevance of local government in their lives, and the great number of functions the Council performs, they are eager to play an active role in shaping the Council's decision making.

The Council should promote active citizenship in young people. Our young people are the future leaders of tomorrow, both in Wellington and throughout New Zealand. The Council has a duty to ensure they are able to participate in the issues where those decisions impact on them.

The Council should develop processes for collecting and analysing the demographic of submitters, as well as a measure of youth engagement in the city. At present, there is no consistent method of collecting demographic data on submitters. Additionally, this data is often not presented in a format that is easily analysed.

The Council should also enable collection of voting statistics in Local Authority elections, so the issue of youth participation in these elections can be better understood. These measures will help the issue of youth participation in decision making to be better understood and tracked over time.

How this Framework should inform the Council's engagement processes

This Framework builds on the engagement strategies contained within the Significance and Engagement Policy adopted by the Council.

This Framework has been formed with the vision of increasing youth involvement in both the operations of Local Government, and its submissions and consultations. This is important, as when the voices of young people are heard in decision making, the result is better and more inclusive outcomes for all.

Once an issue of importance to young people in Wellington is identified using the factors in Section 3, this Framework should be used to assist the Council to undertake consultation of young people, using the mechanisms listed in Section 2.

The Council can use a variety of the mechanisms in this section, in order to achieve better engagement with young people.

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1 Values

- 1.1 When young people are being consulted, the Council should have regard to the following values.

Consultations and interactions with young people that utilise these values represent a genuine effort to engage with young people, and let their voices be heard. These values enable consultations to work for both the Council, and young people.

- 1.2 These values should be considered minimums, and where possible, should be advanced upon by the Council.

These values are also outlined by the Principles of Consultation in s 82 of the Local Government Act 2002. Particularly, subsection (a), which provides that:

“persons who will or may be affected by, or have an interest in, the decision or matter should be provided by the local authority with reasonable access to relevant information in a manner and format that is appropriate to the preferences and needs of those persons”

Authenticity

- 1.3 The Council should take care to conduct meaningful engagement. This means that the **Council genuinely wishes to gain young people’s input on a proposed plan or policy**. Young people respond well when they feel their opinion is being sought because of a genuine desire to hear what they think and feel.
- 1.4 The Council should seek to define why a proposed plan or policy is relevant to young people. When **planning a consultation, Officers should ask “why should a young person care about this?” Officers should place themselves in the young person’s shoes and seek to view the proposed action from a young person’s perspective and worldview.**

Respect

- 1.5 The Council should have regard to the many different backgrounds, lived experiences, and cultures that young people come from. Just as there is no **cohesive way to group those who we call “adults”, there is no cohesive way to group young people**. Every young person is different.

Because of this, engagement mechanisms and methods may have to be curated for each particular group of young people that the Council wishes to reach in a particular consultation. For example, the Council should engage with young people in high school differently to how they would engage with young people in tertiary education.

- 1.6 A way that the Council can enhance the relationship of respect between **Council and young people is to “close the loop”, by giving young people feedback on the outcome of their input**. For example, if a young person made a submission, the Council should feed back what the final decision was, and why that particular decision was made. The Council should do this even when the decision was not in line with the **young person’s submission. Hearing their feedback was considered in the decision-making process makes it far more likely they will take part in future engagements**. This is a respect- and relationship-building exercise that seeks to educate young people about the process, and genuinely seek their input.

This also allows a young person to see that their input is valued, just as much as the input of someone who is able to vote.

Inclusivity

- 1.7 Young people are often the most affected by Council decision making, especially those who lack the formal voice given to those over 18 - a vote. Young people sometimes feel that because they do not have the right to vote, their thoughts and feelings on a Council plan will not be heard or valued.
- The Council should prioritise the inclusivity of young people. This includes ensuring awareness of their right to participate in Council decision making.
- 1.8 Most young people do not have reliable transport to get to consultation events. This places a further barrier on their engagement with the Council. Through the development of this Framework, we have researched, and seen first-hand, the importance of going to young people to gain their input.
- Young people can engage at many levels. Some may wish to engage via social media, others by formal submissions to the Council, and others again may run **for Local Government at election time. This could be considered a 'menu' of participation.** The Council should seek to encourage young people to **participate at any point of this 'menu'.**
- 1.9 The Council should develop a measure of youth engagement in Wellington that considers perceptions of Local Government and their level of participation. The end result of this Framework should be young people in Wellington feeling that their voice is valued, and always counted in Council decision making. This should be an annual occurrence based on a representative sample of young people in Wellington.
- 1.10 The Local Government Act 2002 provides a statutory basis for inclusivity in consultations. When a person **"who will or may be affected by, or have an interest in, the decision or matter should be encouraged by the local authority to present their views to the local authority"**.
- This means that if the Council is considering a decision or matter that will affect young people, they have a statutory duty to ensure that young people are encouraged to submit their views to the Council.
- 1.11 The Council should also make efforts to engage with marginalised youth **communities, including Māori and Pasifika, immigrant, Rainbow** communities, differently-abled, and low-income young people. This will ensure a diversity of views and backgrounds.

Connectedness

- 1.12 All people of Wellington should feel connected to their Council and community. For young people this is no different. Connectedness is critical in maintaining an authentic relationship between the Council and the young people of Wellington.
- Council policies should recognise youth views and interests so young people feel invested in the decisions that shape our daily lives. Young people are a valued part of the community, and it is important that the Council continue to engage with youth.
- 1.13 **In many cases it will be necessary to directly seek out young people's opinions** in order to promote connectedness. This is because many young people (particularly high school students) are not aware that they can make a submission to the Council, and their ideas will not be heard in the current policy engagement process.

Forward thinking

- 1.14 In an ever-changing world it is imperative that the Council remain open to new ways of engaging with young people and continue searching for

innovative means of connecting. Youth engagement should not end with this policy, but instead be updated and adjusted as our culture and society develops.

As such, this Framework should be reviewed by the Council in conjunction with Youth Council every three years.

As a result of technological advances, social media has changed how people engage in the Wellington community. The Council should lead the adoption of new methods of interaction between the Council and the wider community, particularly young people.

Involvement

- 1.15 **Involvement is centred around the concept of actively seeking young people's** opinion on matters of relevance and continuing to pursue this connection. Through consultations Youth Council held with young people in Wellington, the desire to have a respected and involved opinion was expressed by many young people.

A common mind-set held by those surveyed was that young people, **particularly high school students, don't feel as though their opinions will be** respected, accepted or acted upon by the Council.

- 1.16 It is essential that young people are involved in any decisions surrounding new or old policies which will affect the future of Wellington. Making the conscious effort to seek out opinions from young people will create positive engagement that values involvement and generates a feeling of respect for those who share their ideas.

It is crucial to close the feedback loop post-engagement, so that people who have taken the time to share their opinions can understand how their perspective has been considered. This involves initiating discussion and **actively exploring young people's opinions.**

- 1.17 It is also important to provide multiple opportunities and ways for young people to give their input on Council decisions. This could mean asking for **young people's views during the drafting, consultation or implementation of a** policy.

In practice, this could mean holding an information session for young people at the start of drafting a new policy, with post-it note ideas collected, followed by an online survey once a draft was issued, then a sausage sizzle at a community day to have conversations about the proposed draft policy in return for a sausage.

2 Mechanisms

- 2.1 The mechanisms of engagement are just as important as the reasons for the engagement. Young people traditionally do not engage with the Council as they face several barriers to engagement. The mechanisms below seek to reduce these barriers and enable more young people to provide input on Council consultations and decisions. These mechanisms are supported by the values in the previous section and should be used with these values in mind.

Each consultation will require a different combination of these mechanisms depending on the consultation matter, and its significance to young people.

Youth Council should remain the first point of contact for strategic-level engagement, such as around the Long-Term Plan and District Plan.

For more localised engagement, Council should refer to the mechanisms outlined below, and work alongside Youth Council to incorporate more expansive engagement with local young people.

Youth Council

- 2.2 **The Wellington City Youth Council should remain Wellington City Council's** primary mechanism for youth-related advice at the strategic level. The Youth Council, made up of up to twenty young people from across Wellington, acts as a conduit between the young people of Wellington and the Council. The Youth Council is a highly-regarded institution with an established role in **communicating young people's views to** the Council, and the **Council's views** and information to young people. Youth Council has cultivated a wide range of community reach that allows greater participation across the youth community of Wellington.
- 2.3 The Youth Council, as a mechanism within this Framework, acts both as an independent mechanism – providing youth opinions indirectly through Youth Council networks for strategic engagement – and as a coordinating mechanism – providing direction to facilitate youth engagement at a more localised level.

Social media

- 2.4 Social media is an important tool for reaching large numbers of young people. An engagement campaign through social media can reach a large audience far easier than a traditional media campaign.
- The Council should ensure it plans campaigns effectively, to reach a wide cross-section of young people. This will enable the target audience to engage with the campaign and share their views on the consultation or decision.
- 2.5 Social media can be used as a part of a consultation and engagement process, as a way of gathering input from those who would not normally submit through formal engagement. The Council has demonstrated good usage of social media in recent consultations. The use of virtual ward forums, as well as allowing comments and posts on social media to count as formal submissions, is to be commended. The Council should continue with this model of collecting input.
- 2.6 A good use of social media is collecting feedback on smaller questions quickly, as opposed to asking users to contribute to a formal consultation document.
- Social media is also extremely useful for 'closing the loop'** – it enables the Council to give feedback on how the input was used. This provides young people with the sense that their input and effort was valued.

Events

- 2.7 Events provide an easy way to engage with large numbers of young people and gain their input on the consultation or matter.
- Traditional engagement events can present barriers to young people in many forms, and often are not well attended by young people. The Council should seek to build off other events in the city, such as public markets, festivals, and orientation weeks, to gain input from young people. The Council should look for ways to utilise existing and new events as opportunities to engage with young people that attend these events.
- 2.8 These events are a great way of tying an engagement campaign to a positive experience and generating a positive impression of that engagement campaign. Furthermore, it gives the Council the opportunity to have real conversations with diverse groups of young people, making young people feel

valued and respected, while gaining their input. When undertaking these conversations, all participants should be involved in mutual dialogue, rather than just lecturing points to an audience.

Surveys

- 2.9 Surveys provide a way for the Council to gain the input of many young people, in a manner that is more user friendly than traditional engagement forms.

Surveys should be available in many formats, including hard copies that can be placed in schools, as well as digital mediums, which can be distributed online, and via digital devices at events.

- 2.10 Surveys should be short (i.e. no more than ten simple questions) and provide an opportunity for the young person to contribute their thoughts in their own words, as well as through multi choice questions. These surveys should not require a large amount of background reading and should seek to engage **young people's immediate reactions to a proposal.**

Surveys should be designed in collaboration with, and tested by, a small group of young people, before being distributed to a wider network.

Capital Views Research Panel

- 2.11 Currently, the Council does not collect feedback from 16 to 18 year olds as part of the Capital Views Research Panel. Council should investigate adding young people over 16 years old to this panel, as it provides a convenient way to collect high quality input from young people.

The Council should also seek to promote this Panel at events, including those mentioned previously.

Many other organisations in Wellington – notably Non-Governmental Organisations – have their own youth engagement models. On specific issues, the Council should look to contact these groups to elicit youth feedback.

Engagement with high schools

- 2.12 The Council should investigate methods of gaining the input of students at Wellington's various high schools.

Throughout the process of drafting this Framework, high school students were consistently willing to contribute their ideas and thoughts to the project.

- 2.13 Engagement with schools should be suited to the consultation being run. For example, one consultation could feature posters put up in schools, with the schools asked to share details of the engagement. Alternatively, a consultation that triggered a high level of youth significance under this Framework could be centred around workshops in schools with students.

- 2.14 The Council should also investigate cultivating a network of teachers, who could share details of the Council and upcoming consultations that their students may be interested in.

The Council should create resources for schools to use, that help explain the relevance of Local Government to young people, and what the Council does.

Engagement with tertiary institutions

- 2.15 The Council should work with tertiary education providers in Wellington to gain the input of students at these tertiary institutions.

Students Associations at these institutions are well informed of the views and needs of their students and would be well suited to engage with the Council. These Associations have large networks, and followings on social media, and could help to disseminate Council messages and gather feedback.

The Council should also have a presence at orientation weeks, and other university events around the city.

Consultation document design

- 2.16 The Council should ensure that consultation documents are written in plain language, with information about how to submit on them clearly available. This should occur through partnership with young people, facilitated by the Youth Council.

The Council should produce a one-page summary of the proposed change, that can be read in two to three minutes. These summaries should provide information on where to find the full consultation document.

- 2.17 Under the Local Government Act 2002, the Council has a responsibility to **provide “access to relevant information in a manner and format that is appropriate to the preferences and needs of those persons”**. For young people, this means simple consultation documents that do not contain excessive detail, written in plain language.

- 2.18 The Council should also produce short videos that summarise a consultation in approximately a minute. These would help to spread the consultation online.

These steps would help to reduce the barriers to engagement that young people experience due to traditional consultation design.

Incentivise

- 2.19 Providing an incentive to participate in a consultation process can help to overcome apathy towards participation in Council consultations. When paired with the other mechanisms in this Framework, this option could aid in gathering larger responses from young people.

Where deemed appropriate, the Council should consider utilising in-house incentives, such as zoo, pool, or library vouchers when asking individuals to participate in a consultation.

Consultation format

- 2.20 The Council should seek to engage on a more regular basis, with shorter questions. The current model of seeking feedback on an entire project at the same time produces a barrier for young people, who are often time pressured with other commitments and cannot fully examine the details of comprehensive consultation documents.

- 2.21 More regular engagement, including pre-engagement, with more concise questions, would reduce this barrier, and enable far more young people to share their views.

Creative engagement

- 2.22 Other out-for-the-box engagement allow for the Council to elicit information from young people in a less structured manner. This could include a wide range of activities not provided for in the other mechanisms listed. The Council should work with young people to establish the design of such engagement activities, to ensure the information collected is useful.

Feedback – ‘closing the loop’

- 2.21 The Council should communicate back to young people about how their input was used, what the final decision made was, and the reasons for this decision. **This is seen as ‘closing the loop’ of the engagement process. If young people know how their input was used they will feel far more valued, and in turn, will be far more likely to contribute to future consultations.**

3 Youth Priorities

- 3.1 The level of significance of multiple issues around Wellington varies among young people and can best be thought of as a continuum of significance.

The following section sets out the themes that underscore the reasons behind considering topics, plans, and activities to be significant to young people. This section will then define criteria levels to signal the relative level of engagement that should be undertaken, drawing on priority issues outlined through Youth Council interactions with youth around Wellington.

- 3.2 The priority issues for young people in Wellington, alongside a description of the issue area and its importance, help establish the point where engagement under Section 2 – Mechanisms - is triggered, for the Council to work directly with, or reach out to, young people in Wellington.

Overarching themes

3.3 *Forward-focused*

Young people are both current members of society and will also inherit positions as ratepayers. In this regard, young people will feel the effects (both positive, negative, and otherwise) from changes most significantly. Recognizing this, this policy outlines the need for young people to be engaged on topics pertinent to them to ensure current and future effects are robustly assessed.

3.4 *Connection and belonging*

Young people have a distinct sense of place relating to their citizenship and interactions with their local area, including pride in the positive aspects of their area and a commitment to instigate changes in places identified as in need of further development. This policy outlines ways that young people can remain included in areas they are interested and invested in. This will foster and retain a sense of belonging viewed as necessary for future development and retaining adequate levels of interactions.

3.5 *Independence*

Young people value the ability to shape their own futures without having others predetermine how young people should live their lives. Allowing young people to be involved in matters that impact their lives not only fosters a greater sense of ownership in the outcome but strengthens the process through increasing the diversity of ideas. This policy allows young people to determine themselves what is best for them, both now and into the future.

Priority issues

- 3.7 ***Environmental*** issues mean topics, projects, and stances related to sustaining the natural environment of Wellington and New Zealand, including, but not limited to:
- a. topics pertaining to natural resources
 - b. climate change
 - c. pollution
 - d. pest control
 - e. waste minimisation
 - f. environmentally friendly public spaces
 - g. native flora and fauna protection and related conservation efforts

This topic is important to young people due to the intrinsic value of the natural environment and the consequential impacts on our lives in the future – all of which are dependent on the state of the environment.

3.8 **Housing** issues means topics, projects, and stances relating to the provision of private, public, and social accommodation, including:

- a. rental housing, including,
 - a. **Wellington City Council's Rental Warrant of Fitness**
 - b. affordability
- b. affordable housing
- c. homelessness
- d. regulation of housing and housing-related matters
 - a. heating

This topic is important to young people as it has a significant ability to impact on their ability to feel safe, secure, and healthy; their access to employment; and their social and educational opportunities. It also influences young **people's future ability** to remain in an area.

3.9 **Transport** issues means topics, projects, and stances regarding the physical movement of people, freight, and other objects in, around, and out of Wellington, including:

- a. the provision of roading, rail, and waterborne infrastructure
- b. public transport initiatives
- c. walking and cycling
- d. the integration of movement around Wellington
- e. other topic areas reliant on adequate linkages, including retail and food services

Transport also extends to the ability to access employment, education, and training opportunities from residential living areas, with a focus on modes, cost, planning and implementation of transport projects.

Young people can be viewed as transport disadvantaged, meaning they are without relative private methods of movement available to other groups within society. Ability to access both core employment, educational or training opportunities, alongside the social aspect of linkages with others, further **defines young people's interest in this issue.**

3.10 **Service Delivery and Public Spaces** issues include recreational or educational services or spaces provided by a local authority for the public through direct provision, contracting, or inclusion of a user-pays system, including:

- a. libraries
- b. swimming pools
- c. sports parks
- d. playgrounds
- e. event venues
- f. walk and cycleways

This issue area is important to young people as it provides recreational, social and physical utility to young people, who often do not have the private means to interact with others due to cost, mobility, or other factors.

3.11 **Public Safety** relates to the necessity for members of the community to feel safe while going about their everyday lives, with a focus on:

- a. prevention-based initiatives to public safety issues
- b. adequate routes able to be safely navigated by the public
- c. security measures to protect people and property from vandalism and physical threats

This topic is important to young people due to its impact on the ability to access employment, educational, training or social opportunities, without fear of untoward experiences.

3.12 **Events** are gatherings centred around an overarching theme for which people come together to interact with each other, with a focus on:

- a. low cost/free events in Wellington
- b. the culture of Wellington, to create an environment where it is enjoyable to live
- c. major funding changes to existing and changing events

This topic area is important to young people as it adds considerable social value and ingrains social interactions within the community. Events break down barriers and strengthen community bonds and resilience. This has the indirect effect of fostering greater business opportunities and connections with others.

3.13 **Animal** issues means topics, projects, and stances related to the ability to keep pets at residential properties, including:

- a. regulations or other Council instruments that determine how pets can be kept
- b. the protection, conservation and regulation of native wildlife and pets

This topic is important to young people as it deals with other living beings that provide, at various points, companionship, economic opportunity, and services/accessibility. In recognising their importance, young people find it critical to determine the correct aspects of care and control of these living beings, and their integration within a community.

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This Framework was developed by Youth Council. The efforts of the working group tasked with developing this document are gratefully recorded:

Jack Marshall (Steering Group Chair)

Brad Olsen (Youth Council Chair)

NAMES OF THE WORKING GROUP

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