

### 3. REPORT ON YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CENTRAL CITY

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the outcomes of the ‘Urban Leisure – Young People in the Central City’ project. A full copy of the report has been circulated to Board members.

#### BACKGROUND

This project was initiated by the Children’s and Youth Advocacy Team in conjunction with the Recreation and Arts Team and the Central City Team to address perceived issues around a lack of leisure activities and entertainment for young people in the central city. Over 500 young people were surveyed in and around the central city. Questions included: what activities young people took part in in the central city; transport used, why they did/did not chose to come into the city and what else they would like to see provided.

#### KEY FINDINGS

Young people were given an opportunity to comment on what they felt was missing in the central city and what else they would like to see provided. The main ideas were:

- *Safety* – many young people mentioned the lack of safety in the central city during certain times of the day. Suggestions included more security cameras, better lighting and more police presence.
- *Entertainment* – this was raised often in the survey. It was felt that most activities in the central city cost too much. Also that there was not enough happening in terms of young people’s entertainment. Suggestions included break dancing competitions, opportunities to showcase young talent, high school bands, basketball and skating competitions and many others. There were some young people who felt the best events would be run by young people themselves. Some respondents recognised that lack of activities in the central city could be responsible for some young people getting into trouble.
- *Beautifying the city* – some respondents commented on the ‘dullness’ of the central city and the lack of greenery. They felt more colour was needed to make the central city more inviting.

#### OTHER KEY FINDINGS INCLUDED

- *Diversity* – although it was already known that young people are very diverse, it was highlighted even more throughout this survey. The number of different activities young people become involved in is vast; their ideas about what is important for the city is also incredibly diverse as are their views on what is ‘cool’.
- *Influence* – those aged 10-12 years old seem to be the most influenced by their family while those 13-18 are influenced most by friends (according to the answers in the survey) – many travel certain ways, ‘hang out’ at certain spots and engage in some activities simply because their friends do.
- *Trouble* – a number of respondents expressed annoyance at the behaviour of some young people and made it clear they were keen for the small number of trouble-makers to be dealt with.
- *Not coming into the central city* – the main reasons for not coming into the central city were:
  - safety (not being allowed to travel in because it was not safe in town)
  - not enough to do (some respondents mentioned there was more to do in their local neighbourhood)
  - too expensive (most activities in the central city cost too much)

#### Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That staff work with key Council staff and youth entertainment providers to further investigate the provision of more youth entertainment in the central city.
  2. That staff work with relevant Council units to further investigate the concerns of young people around the issue of safety in the central city and possible solutions for this issue.

#### Chairperson’s

**Recommendation:** That the recommendations be adopted.