

Northern Midlands Council Youth Strategy 2024



Strategic context

The Youth Strategy reflects the Northern Midlands Council Strategic Plan 2021-2027.

Council strives to make the Northern Midlands a place where young people are valued, supported and celebrated. To achieve this goal Council will work with young people and their families to enhance their participation across all aspects of life including social, cultural, environmental and economic.

Council's Youth Strategy is designed with young people at its heart, and raising the wellbeing of Northern Midlands' young people is its core mission. Council values our young people, and we are committed to supporting and empowering them to develop and thrive.

LEADERSHIP

Council acknowledges the fundamental importance of wellbeing in young people's lives and embraces the role local government can play in helping to build wellbeing within its community.

PROGRESSION

Council, service providers and the broader community will support and empower our young people, ensuring young people are actively engaged and that the community is responsive to their needs and aspirations.

PEOPLE

Council will actively engage with young people seeking their opinions and perspectives and valuing their participation.

PLACE

Council will actively support young people having a sense of connection and belonging to space, their peers and the wider community. Council will achieve this by supporting a positive image of young people within the broader community, identifying and promoting active spaces where young people are welcome and have the opportunity to connect with their peers.

Strategic plan

The Strategic Plan 2021-2027 updates the Northern Midlands Strategic Plan 2017-2027.

The plan focusses on the unique elements of the Northern Midlands, an enviable place to live, work and play.

The Plan is based upon four key priorities:

1	Lead	Serve with honesty, integrity, innovation and pride
2	Progress	Economic health and wealth – grow and prosper
3	People	Cultural and society – a vibrant future that respects the past
4	Place	Nurture our heritage environment

Each priority is supported by four strategic outcomes that describe what Council aims to achieve, and that are consistent with its vision.

Actions and projects to achieve these outcomes will be included in Council's Annual Plan. Performance measures will be included in the Annual Plan to enable Council to track its progress against each of the strategic outcomes.

The Annual Report, which is presented at the Council's Annual General Meeting, will provide the update as to how the strategic outcomes have been achieved throughout the year.

Values

HONESTY

Treat all with honesty, respect and trust.

INTEGRITY

Listen, learn and proactively deliver Council's vision.

INNOVATION

Explore, expand and adapt to achieve a shared vision.

PRIDE

Serve community with pride and energy.



Strategic outcomes

As a Provider, Council ...

- 1.1 Provides opportunities for young people to actively participate in community and civic life; enhancing life skills, health and wellbeing, and employability
- 1.2 Encourages young people to be physically active by the provision of parks, shared pathways/trails, swimming pools and skate parks
- 1.3 Enhances the quality and viability of community and sporting facilities, and maximises opportunities for multi-use of public places and spaces
- 1.4 Creates and promotes work experience and traineeship opportunities for young people across diverse areas of Council employment
- 1.5 Pursues external funding opportunities to enable the provision of new programs and infrastructure (e.g. pump tracks) that are responsive to the needs of young people
- 1.6 Promotes a positive image of young people by championing and raising awareness of young people's contribution to society
- 1.7 Provides accessible/plain English youth-specific information across a range of communication channels, with an emphasis on social media

As a Facilitator, Council ...

- 2.1 Collaborates with tiers of government and service providers, to identify priority needs and to mobilise innovative responses
- 2.2 Facilitates local service networks to share information and support sector development
- 2.3 Facilitates opportunities for young people to actively participate in council consultations and decision-making processes
- 2.4 Encourages local clubs and groups with high youth participation to adopt voluntary harm minimisation codes around alcohol, smoking and drugs e.g. the Good Sports Program
- 2.5 Encourages a decrease in the consumption of sweet drinks and unhealthy foods

As an Advocate, Council ...

- 3.1 Advocates for the needs and aspirations of young people to all levels of government, and the education and community sectors
- 3.2 Advocates for programs and services that increase health intelligence and educate about healthy lifestyles
- 3.3 Advocates for the improvement of health and wellbeing services and programs across the Northern Midlands, with a particular emphasis on innovative mental health support services for young people

Schedule of strategic projects

Strategic projects	Year 1 2023/24	Year 2 2024/25	Year 3 2025/26
Expand Youth Officer position from 0.6FTE to full-time	Complete		
Establish and resource a Northern Midlands Youth Advisory Group	Complete		
Foster education and employment opportunities through Council's Further education Bursary Program, trainee apprenticeship program and support of Breakfast Clubs at local schools	Ongoing		
Support the implementation in the Northern Midlands of the framework established by the <i>Youth Safe Organisations 2023 Act</i>	Complete		
Advocate for services and support for Northern Midlands youth by Youth Officer actively participating on the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee and Northern Midlands Interagency Group	Ongoing		
Support local district high schools Student Representative Councils, including by funding and managing the SPARKS grants program	Ongoing		
Facilitate and manage Free2B Girl Programs at Longford and Campbell Town, and seek funding to expand the program into other communities	Ongoing		
Facilitate and assist with the provision of Mental Health Week and Youth Week activities across the Northern Midlands	Ongoing		
Encourage youth to be physically active through facilitation of Active Northern Midlands programs, PCYC sessions on a weekly (school term) basis at Northern Midlands venues, and continuation of Council's policy of providing grants to assist with interstate sport representations	Ongoing		
Advocate for, and seek funding towards the development of youth appropriate spaces including half basketball courts, a junior soccer field, shared pathways and pump tracks	Ongoing		
Engage with city-based services to scope, and support their capacity, to provide outreach to youth in the Northern Midlands	Ongoing		
Work in collaboration with the wider community, local schools, Tas Police and local service providers to identify and support meeting the needs of local youth	Ongoing		
Update Council's Youth Policy and Guide	Complete		
Encourage recognition of the achievements and contributions of local youth via the Australia Day Awards and School Leavers' Achievement Awards	Ongoing		
Facilitate youth-focussed cultural activities including town banners, murals and general artworks	Ongoing		

Note 1: The Northern Midlands Council is actioning the identified strategic projects outlined in this strategy.

Many of these strategic actions may be found in the identified State and Federal Government strategic documents below:

- Align strategic initiatives with Australia's Youth Policy Framework and the *Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy – 'It takes a Tasmanian Village'* – Tasmanian Government
- Implement Youth Strategies in consideration with the National and State Youth Policies – Australian Government

Note 2: Endorsed by Council 22 April 2024, minute reference 24/0138.