THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

YOUTH SPACES

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN
GENERATION ONE: 2020-23

CITY OF GREATER
GEELONG

Council acknowledges Wadawurrung Traditional Owners of this land and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of the Greater Geelong community today.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The preparation of this Report has been a collaborative effort of our Council, all relevant Council departments, partner organisations, our community clubs, groups and associations, and the Greater Geelong community.

We would like to thank the involvement of all our key stakeholders for their collaboration, insight and commitment to the future of our community infrastructure and to a new way of working.

This plan was endorsed by council on 28 July 2020.

DISCLAIMER

This Report is prepared by the City of Greater Geelong. The Report is solely for the use of the City of Greater Geelong and is not intended to, and should not be used, or relied upon by anyone else. The City of Greater Geelong does not accept any duty of care, to any other person or entity other than itself.

The information contained in this document has been developed through an assessment of the current known state of the City's infrastructure, rigorous analysis of the available evidence, existing strategic guidance, plans and strategies, and extensive stakeholder and community consultation over the course of 2.5 years 2017 - 2020.

Information contained in the Report is current as at the relevant dates stated in the Report and may not reflect any event or circumstances which occur after the stated date. It has been prepared in good faith and neither the City of Greater Geelong, nor its servants, consultants, agents or staff shall be responsible in any way whatsoever to any person in respect to the report, including any errors or omission therein.

THE POLICY

The Social Infrastructure Planning and Investment Policy aims to provide Council and the City of Greater Geelong with a guide to fair and equitable decision making, and to provide our community with a clear understanding of Council's role and how decisions are made.

THE PLAN

The Social Infrastructure Plan will outline the needs of our community, investment priorities and the way forward to ensure that people know what is planned in the place that they live.

The plan is intended to provide Council and the community with a single, simpler and more integrated strategic summary of Council's investment priorities over the next 1-3 years.

The plan will be closely monitored and updated each year in line with the realisation of transformational elements identified in the document and as our understanding of social infrastructure continues to mature and grow.

THE NETWORK REPORT

The network reports provide a summary of social infrastructure needs and requirements for each specific network over the next 1-3 years, understanding that the plan component identified in each will be updated annually, as new information becomes available.

The identified projects within the summary plan for each network are broken down into five key streams:

- New
- Renew
- Maintenance
- Planning
- Services / People

This network report specifically relates to Youth Spaces - Youth Drop-In Centres and Youth Program Spaces.

For a complete overview of all the social infrastructure needs and priorities across the City of Greater Geelong, please refer to the Social Infrastructure Plan - Generation One: 2020 - 2023.

NETWORK PROFILES

There are 13 individual network reports covering a diverse range of community places, spaces and services.

Generation One: The Networks Covered

- Early Years
- Youth Spaces (THIS NETWORK REPORT)
- Libraries
- Community Meeting and Program Spaces
- Arts and Culture
- Open Space
- Play Spaces
- Aquatics and Leisure
- Indoor Sport and Recreation
- Outdoor Sport and Recreation (including sports pavilions)
- Golf
- Cycling and Trails
- Public Toilets

WHAT CAN YOU FIND IN EACH NETWORK PROFILE AND PLAN

Overview of the network + Map

Each network consists of an introduction including background context and a map of known facilities, an overview of what the network is, what it is made up of, it's value and what some of the emerging issues and opportunities are, in addition to any related plans, community insights and key considerations.

Our guiding documents

A summary of related documents including strategies, plans, policies, needs assessments and technical reports.

What our community told us

A summary of relevant community feedback and insights.

Generation One – Things we considered

A summary of key considerations relating to each network (i.e. legislative changes, emerging issues and trends).

Current State - Snapshot

A snapshot of what we know about the network so far including, known provision, condition, travel accessibility and service provision.

A gap analysis based on existing industry benchmarks compared with today's provision.

Indicators of need by planning area

Provision, population, social and health indicators by each planning area to help inform any relevant areas of need and opportunities.

Strategic focus areas and directions

In response to the needs and opportunities identified, this section outlines the strategic focus areas and directions for each network, including a high-level mantra to guide planning and investment for the next three years.

The Plan: 2020 - 2023

Generation One of the plan provides a summary table of identified projects by 'Network' broken down into five streams – New, Renew, Maintenance, Planning, and Services / People.

YOUTH SPACES

SCOPE

Youth Drop-In Centres and Youth Program Spaces.

The City provides opportunities for young people to engage, connect and participate in their communities. Our aim is to provide young people with improved social and community connections, personal and skill development opportunities, safe and youth informed events, qualifications, excursions, reduce isolation, and access to accurate, up to date and relevant information.

City of Greater Geelong offer a number of programs and activities for young people and have established Youth Action Groups running across the municipality to support youth engagement, as well as the development and facilitation of youth engagement and development initiatives.

Youth programs are delivered from a variety of Community Centre's, schools and public places across the region, in addition to the exclusive use of a youth specific building called "The fOrT", located in Corio, and facilitates daily activities for young people across the region.

The City's Youth Development Unit drives the planning and delivery of youth-informed programs and activities. Priority areas identified for the Youth Development Unit are identified as:

- Social and Community Connections
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Skill Development, Education / Employment and Capacity Building
- Youth Council

Youth services are delivered in a number of dynamic ways including, but not limited to: assertive outreach, drop in programs, education / skill development, events, holiday programs, secondary consultations, supported referrals, youth arts and social media, skate, scoot and bmx, Youth Action / Advisory Groups (YAG), Youth Council, L2P - learner driver mentor program, CALD, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs, and GASP Gender and Sexuality Education.

Our programs also provide other services and assistance to key stakeholders with;

- Specialist advice relating to young people, and
- A response to identified community areas related to issues involving young people.

Through these programs young people also have the opportunity to gain the driving experience required to apply for a probationary licence, specialist support and programs aimed at diverse backgrounds and/or people newly arrived to the region (or Australia), and specialist support and programs to young people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

The City works with a range of partners and have a shared commitment to improving the wellbeing of young people in the City's catchment.

There are areas across the municipality with high levels of Youth Poverty (People Aged 15 Years and Under Living in Poverty) and Young Adult Poverty (People Aged 15 - 24 Years Living in Poverty), specifically Planning Area 1 – Corio Norlane, Planning Area 4 – Portarlington, St Leonards, Indented Head, Planning Area 11 – Bell Park, Bell Post Hill, and Planning Area 3 - Clifton Springs, Curlewis and Drysdale all between 21% and 32%.

As a result, there is significant health inequality across our City. In particular, young people within Greater Geelong have relatively high rates of depressive symptoms, road trauma, youth suicide and self-harm, early school disengagement, homelessness, family violence and housing insecurity, and high levels of young people not in employment, education or training.

There are concerns that young people in our City are accessing services, social and community connections and programs at lower rates than would be expected, and that many vulnerable young people are missing out on the services and supports they need.

There is a need to create a network of integrated youth services and spaces across the municipality with the capacity to offer a range of complementary services and programs for young people and their families, including but not limited to, access to doctors, mental health, maternal and child health nurses, counsellors, drug and alcohol clinicians, and other youth support services.

Planning for young people (ages 5 to 17) will be a priority. It is acknowledged that extensive work has already been undertaken in this space over the past few years through the Geeyoung Project and Geelong Better Youth Services Project. It will be important to continue advocating for youth and ensuring appropriate places, spaces and services are provided to meet the needs of this target group.

OUR GUIDING DOCUMENTS:

The following related documents were used to inform this Plan (including strategic plans, policies, legislation and infrastructure plans):

- Council Plan (2018 - 2022)
- Child Safe Standards (under review in 2019) and Child Wellbeing and Safety Act (2005)

THINGS WE CONSIDERED:

- The need for dedicated spaces for integrated youth services that are accessible across the municipality, with a focus on the most vulnerable communities.
- The exit of youth programs in two central Geelong locations in 2019 has created increased urgency on the need for youth drop-in spaces, particularly in Central Geelong as a key gathering point for youth.
- The need to continue the strong partnerships in place with sector organisations and service providers.
- The opportunity for intergenerational community facilities to include places, spaces and services for young people.

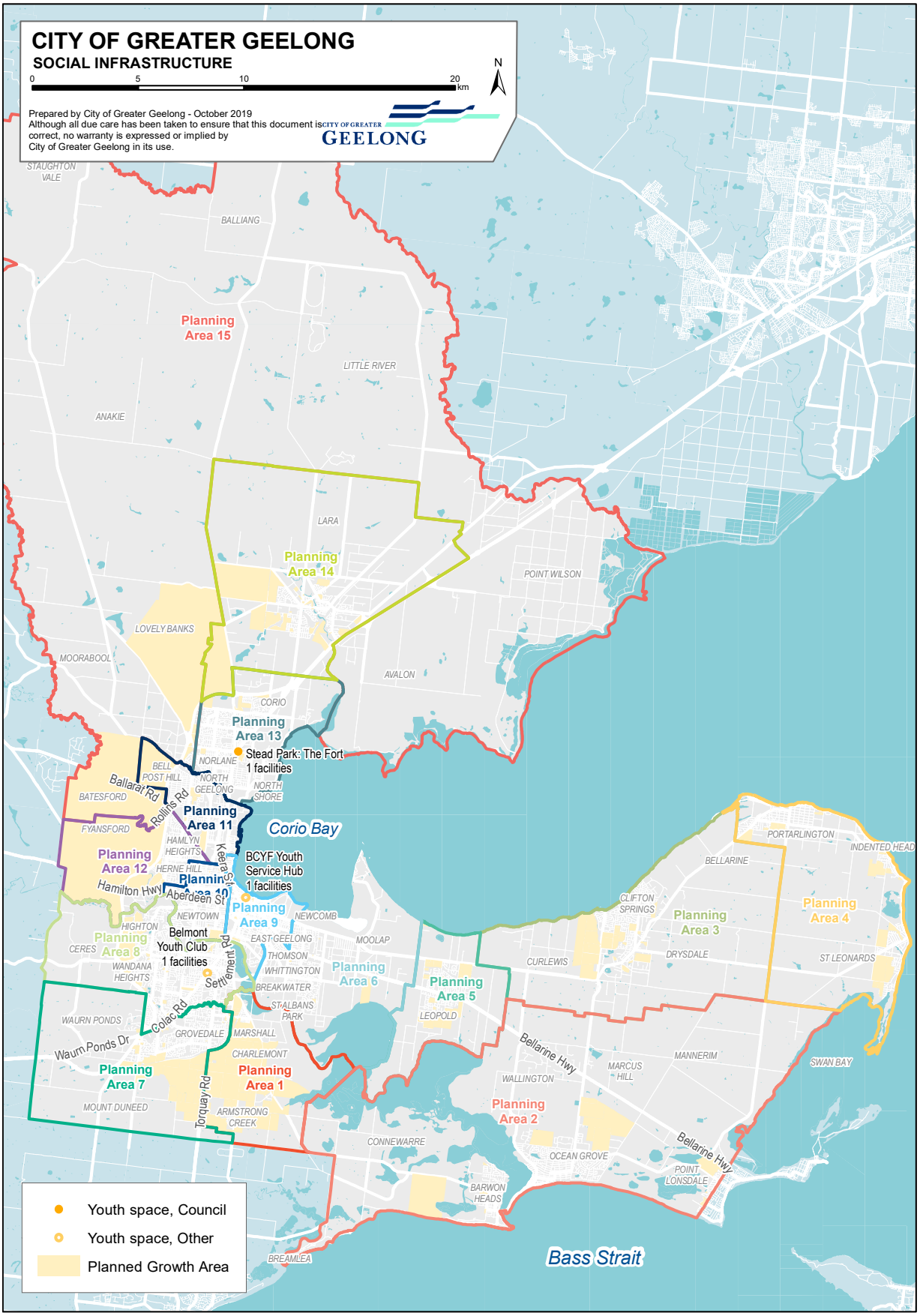
WHAT OUR COMMUNITY TOLD US:

- Mission Australia Youth Survey – Geelong (2018) received responses from 561 young people across the City of Greater Geelong region.
- The top three issues of personal concern for young people were 'coping with stress', mental health and body image (47.7%, 34.2% and 33.4%). The proportion of responses for each of these top concerns were higher than VIC (45.0%, 32.8% and 31.8% respectively).
- Significantly, over double the proportion of females living in our City identified 'coping with stress' as their top issue of concern (58.2% compared with 28.3%) and over four in ten females reported high levels of concern about mental health (42.3%) and body image (42.0%).
- More than one in ten young people indicated feeling very sad / sad with their life as a whole (10.9% compared with 8.9% of VIC respondents). A slightly higher proportion of females than males felt very sad / sad with their life as a whole (12.4% compared with 9.5%).
- For young people the three most commonly cited barriers to finding work were school responsibilities (16.1%), lack of skills / experience (11.1%) and lack of jobs (8.5%) (compared with 18.4%, 12.9% and 10.2% of VIC).
- Compared with VIC, higher proportions of young people cited mental health (11.8% compared with 7.1%) and lack of skills / experience (18.9% compared with 12.9%) as barriers impacting upon them finding work.

MAP 4 – YOUTH SPACES

MAP REFERENCE	NAME
1	Stead Park: The Fort
2	BCYF Youth Service Hub
3	Belmont Youth Club

MAP 4 - YOUTH SPACES



YOUTH SPACES

Youth Drop-In Centres and Youth Program Spaces.

BUILDINGS & OWNERSHIP

1 — 100% COGG — DEDICATED YOUTH DROP IN CENTRE

2 — 0% COGG — YOUTH SPACES

SERVICE	CURRENT PROVISION STANDARDS	TODAY	BENCHMARK	DIFFERENCE
Youth Facility	1 Facility per 20,000 Persons (all ages)	3	12.9	- 9.9

Data Notes:

DISTRIBUTION

EQUITY

POOR DISTRIBUTION OF SITES AND ACCESS TO SPACES

ONLY DEDICATED FACILITY IS IN NORTH GEELONG. CENTRAL GEELONG PROVISION CEASED IN 2019.

CONDITION

1 — 100% COMPLETED

CONDITION AUDITS
CITY OF GREATER GEELONG BUILDING ONLY

AVERAGE SCORE: 2.1 - GOOD

TRAVEL ACCESSIBILITY

ACCESSIBILITY

ON AVERAGE **26%** OF DWELLINGS ARE WITHIN A 20-MINUTE WALK TO ONE OR MORE PLACE, SPACE OR SERVICE

100% OR MORE EXCELLENT WALKABILITY
Meaning that most residents live within a 20-minute walk to more than one option

50% - 100% GOOD WALKABILITY
Meaning that more than half of residents live within a 20-minute walk

50% OR LESS LIMITED WALKABILITY
Meaning that less thank half of residents live within a 20-minute walk

NOTE: Comprehensive multi-mode travel accessibility assessments are in development

USAGE / OCCUPANCY

SUSTAINABILITY

MANAGEMENT / SERVICE DELIVERY

33% COGG

The City of Greater Geelong is the service provider of 1 of 3 youth facilities.

AVERAGE VISITATIONS / INTERACTIONS

6,000+
AT CITY OF GREATER GEELONG PROGRAMS

FELT NEED

There are currently 18,326 young people aged 5 to 17 years.

There are areas across the municipality with high levels of youth poverty, specifically Planning Area 1 –Corio Norlane, Planning Area 4 – Portarlington, St Leonards, Indented Head, Planning Area 11 – Bell Park, Bell Post Hill, and Planning Area 3 - Clifton Springs, Curlewis and Drysdale all between 21% and 32%.

Two centrally located facilities, running youth programs, have become unavailable for use in late 2019, further exacerbating the need for dedicated youth spaces and services.

The top three issues of personal concern for young people were coping with stress, mental health and body image (47.7%, 34.2% and 33.4%). The proportion of responses for each of these top concerns were higher than VIC (45.0%, 32.8% and 31.8% respectively).

There is one dedicated youth drop-in centre run by Council and two others run by not-for-profit providers across the municipality.

Existing community spaces available for use will require a fit-for-purpose audit to determine future opportunities and their longer-term suitability.

YOUTH SPACES

INDICATES A METRIC THAT IS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO ASSESSING NEED

BY PLANNING AREA															
DESCRIPTION OF SMALL AREAS	Armstrong Creek - Marshall - Charlemont	Barwon Heads – Ocean Grove – Rural Bellarine Peninsula	Clifton Springs-Curlewis - Drysdale-Bellarine	Portarlington – St Leonards - Indented Head	Leopold	Newcomb-Moolap - Thomson - Breakwater – Whittington	Grovedale - Mount Duneed - Waurn Ponds	Belmont-Highton - Wandana Heights –Ceres	East Geelong – Geelong - South Geelong – Drumcondra	Geelong West - Manifold Heights - Newtown	Bell Park - Bell Post Hill - North Geelong – Rippleside	Hamlyn Heights - Herne Hill – Fyansford	Corio – Norlane – North Shore	Lara	Lovely Banks – Batesford – Moorabool - Rural North
KNOWN PROVISION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Youth Space	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
PROVISION GAP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Youth Space	-0.6	-1.2	-0.8	-0.4	-0.7	-0.9	-1.2	-0.9	0.6	-1.0	0.2	-0.5	-1.3	-0.9	-0.2
OTHER INDICATORS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Condition by area (rating)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Good	Good	-	Good	-	-	-	-
Access by area (rating)	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Good	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
SOCIAL INDICATORS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
One Parent Families %	10.3%	8.5%	10.4%	7.6%	10.7%	13.6%	10.4%	9.1%	7.9%	8.8%	12.7%	10.1%	20.1%	10.7%	8.4%
School Age (5 – 17 years) No.	683	1781	1179	360	979	1090	1617	2814	593	1535	914	651	2398	1286	446
School Age (5 – 17 years) %	17.3%	17.8%	16.8%	11.0%	16.4%	13.3%	15.6%	16.6%	10.9%	16.1%	13.8%	13.4%	18.4%	16.9%	18.4%
Vulnerability* *% of children surveyed who are deemed vulnerable on one of more domain in their first year of school	N/A	19.5%	15.1%	30.8%	17.1%	35.2%	13.4%	16.4%	22.0%	16.4%	19.3%	15.1%	35.7%	17.8%	17.4%
SEIFA – Average of local area scores	1030	1064	993	945	987	891	1020	1024	1037	1050	937	968	793	1000	1001
Workforce Participation % of Planning Area population	67.9%	59.7%	54.9%	39.6%	61.2%	53.0%	60.2%	61.7%	62.8%	64.9%	53.7%	60.9%	45.9%	60.6%	62.2%
Youth Poverty % People Aged 15 Years and Under Living in Poverty	-	13%	21%	25%	19%	25%	18%	12% - 18%	12% - 17%	17%	22%	15%	32%	21%	-
Young Adult Poverty People Aged 15 - 24 Years Living in Poverty	-	14%	17%	25%	13%	21%	12%	13% - 16%	13% - 15%	15%	21%	17%	32%	9%	-
Year 12 Completion % of Planning Area population	55.8%	54.1%	41.6%	34.0%	43.1%	35.3%	49.6%	55.8%	56.0%	60.1%	41.2%	46.2%	28.6%	42.0%	41.0%
Lowest – Medium Lowest Income % of Planning Area population	41.2%	47.0%	55.8%	63.3%	51.3%	58.9%	54.8%	49.8%	45.4%	44.3%	56.9%	51.2%	67.4%	48.6%	52.3%
No Access to a Car - % of Planning Area population	2.3%	2.2%	3.0%	4.1%	2.3%	9.1%	4.7%	5.2%	8.2%	7.9%	8.2%	7.5%	12.2%	2.9%	1.4%
HEALTH INDICATORS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Psychological distress (%) - High / Very high distress rates	9.1%	6.8%	7.1%	12.0%	13.8%	12.0%	10.1%	10.6%	3.7%	8.7%	6.5%	4.1%	21.3%	8.5%	11.0%
Food security (%) - Ran out of food in the last month and couldn't afford to buy more	5.7%	1.6%	1.8%	6.8%	3.2%	4.3%	2.3%	3.5%	8.3%	2.6%	2.8%	2.1%	15.5%	4.3%	4.9%
Life satisfaction (%) – Rated their life satisfaction as high or very high.	82.6%	95.8%	84.8%	90.4%	86.8%	83.2%	85.7%	87.0%	88.6%	88.6%	80.3%	95.1%	68.1%	88.9%	84.9%

YOUTH SPACES

IN THE NEXT 3 YEARS WE WILL FOCUS ON:

ESTABLISHING THE NETWORK

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

ESTABLISH A NETWORK TO SUPPORT YOUTH SERVICES

Establish a network of Integrated Youth Services across the City and in areas of most need.

INTEGRATE PLACES AND SPACES FOR YOUTH

Integrate youth in planning for all community places, spaces and connections.

WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SECTOR

Plan and develop a youth facility and service network in partnership with the broader youth service sector.

ENHANCE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Commit to increased youth engagement and improving the wellbeing of young people.

DIRECTIONS

REF	DIRECTION	POLICY / RESPONSE ALIGNMENT
1.	Work with a range of partners and key stakeholders that have a shared commitment to improving the wellbeing of young people in the City of Greater Geelong.	In response to the need for greater coordination of youth services across the municipality. In response to concerns that young people are accessing services, social and community connections and programs at lower rates than would be expected, and that many vulnerable young people are missing out on the services and supports they need.
2.	Explore opportunities for the establishment of intergenerational community hubs with dedicated youth space and for all community facilities to consider places, spaces and services for young people.	In response to the need to create a network of Integrated Youth Service spaces with the capacity to offer a range of complementary services and programs for young people and their families. In response to the need for dedicated spaces for youth services that are accessible across the municipality and a focus on the most vulnerable communities. In response to the immediate need for a youth drop-in presence in Central Geelong, Bellarine and the North.
3.	Improve engagement and community connection in young people, reduce isolation and provide access to accurate, up to date and relevant information. Youth drop-in centres to be an access point for young people to new and/or emerging technologies.	In response to the need for increased youth engagement as well as the development and facilitation of youth engagement initiatives. In response to providing equitable access to youth services, information and digital technology in areas of most need.
4.	Continue youth-informed leadership in the form of the City of Greater Geelong Youth Council. Embed Youth Council consultation and involvement in matters relating to, and/or with potential impacts, on youth.	In response to the success and value of the inaugural City of Greater Geelong Youth Council, and the need for the youth of our municipality to have a stronger voice.

IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

SUMMARY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS (2020-23)

YOUTH SPACES

HARD INFRASTRUCTURE			SOFT INFRASTRUCTURE	
NEW	**RENEW**	**MAINTENANCE**	**PLANNING**	**SERVICES / PEOPLE**
New: Recommendations pending the findings of the Youth Facility Network Feasibility Study.	**Minor refurbishment:** The Fort Youth Hub, North Geelong - Establish an integrated youth-friendly service space in Corio, within the existing fOrT building. **Major Refurbishment:** None.	Based on Asset Management Plan – develop annual maintenance program(s).	Conduct a Youth services needs study and review the existing Youth Strategy. Conduct a Youth Facility Network feasibility and business case for the establishment of an integrated youth facility in each Ward, at a minimum. Must consider response to the need for a youth drop in presence in Central Geelong, Bellarine and the North. Integrate youth needs in all community infrastructure planning. Develop Asset Management Plan in line with asset condition, fit-for-purpose and criticality audits.	Work in collaboration with private and not-for-profit service providers as well as the education sector, to ensure reasonable access to youth spaces, programs and services across the municipality. Collaborate with service providers in all infrastructure planning. Continue the City of Greater Geelong Youth Council. Develop a corporate approach to improve youth engagement and participation in consultative activities. Implement Smart City Technology assessing existing service performance.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE

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