

COMMUNITY PLAN ACTION PLAN 2021-2022

This Community Plan Action Plan 2021-2022 (Action Plan) sets out the actions Council will focus on delivering in the first year of our Community Plan 2021-2025. We will release an Action Plan for each year of the four-year plan.¹ The Action Plan outlines the priority actions towards Council's five goals: a connected community, liveable neighbourhoods, a strong local economy, a sustainable environment and a high-performing organisation.

Connected community



Actions we will deliver in 2021-2022:

- Partner with Monash University and CrowdSpot to understand perceptions of safety in public spaces
- Upgrade the Whittlesea Dardi Munwurro facility to support programs for Aboriginal men and young people, and finalise tenure arrangements
- Deliver the Modelling Respect for Equality Program in partnership with The Men's Project
- Deliver the CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) Family Violence Project Phase II
- Support the establishment of Orange Door service provision in City of Whittlesea
- Deliver the 2021-2022 De-sexing Cats Program
- Plan for Emergencies



- Utilise the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre as site for the State's mass COVID-19 vaccination roll out to reduce the risk of rapidly spreading
- Work with partners to lead recovery from COVID19 pandemic including vaccinations and COVID-19 safe health messaging
- Deliver the Multicultural Awareness of COVID Immunisation program to increase culturally and linguistically diverse community accessibility and uptake of COVID vaccinations
- Deliver the 2021-2022 Infrastructure Accessibility Program
- Deliver a place-based 2021/2022 Festival and Events program including initiatives supporting arts, culture, heritage and community recovery efforts to reconnect and foster wellbeing
- Undertake a review of opportunities and governance arrangements for the Ziebell's Farmhouse
- Continue to support place-based events and nature play activities in parks and reserves
- Progress delivery of an Aboriginal Gathering Place that will increase connections to culture, heritage, land and healing
- Advocate for funding to build Aboriginal Gathering Place
- Employ Community Grants Program Coordinator
- Provide COVID -19 emergency recovery grants to local community service organisations to support vulnerable communities and to provide emergency relief
- Commence implementing the Community Leadership Program
- Advocate for mental health services
- Launch and promote the Headspace site at The Edge in conjunction with Headspace
- Support Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network (HWLLEN) and RMIT and other partners to deliver a place-based 'beyond school' transitions program, co-designed with and for local neuro-diverse young people
- Launch the Whittlesea Seniors Link Up project as a digital platform
- Aged Care Reform– Undertake service planning to ensure our older residents transition well to the national market-based aged care and disability system
- Advocate for a regional indoor netball basketball centre
- Redevelop Mill Park Basketball Stadium
- Implement the Business Advisory Panel and other targeted forums with key business sectors to strengthen engagement and partnerships with Council
- Continue to improve local community engagement in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy to inform Council programs and decision-making
- Consult with the Youth Advisory Committee about a transition to a Whittlesea Youth Council
- Commence development of Whittlesea Reconciliation Action Plan

¹ Not all key initiatives will be actioned every year or over the full duration of the four-year Community Plan. Community needs and priorities change over the four-year period, and this will be reflected in the composition of each annual Community Plan Action Plan.

Liveable neighbourhoods



Actions we will deliver in 2021-2022:

- Renew Riverside Reserve Park and Playground
- Upgrade Mernda Village Adventure Playground
- Renew playgrounds and general landscape improvements (2021-2022 program)
- Walking in response to COVID 19
- Establish additional dog off leash areas in various locations (2021-2022 program)
- Implement the Whittlesea Public Gardens Master Plan
- Commence developing new Public Toilet Amenity Plan and upgrade public toilet facilities
- Commence Granite Hills Major Community Park
- Deliver the Missing Path Links Program in various locations (2021-2022 program)
- Construct Findon Road extension - Williamsons Road to Danaher Drive

- Deliver local road resurfacing works (2021-2022 program)
- Reconstruct Arthurs Creek Road
- Signalise intersection at Rockfield Street and Edgars Road in Epping
- Reconstruct and rehabilitate local roads (2021-2022 program)
- Advocate for funds for new or upgraded roads
- Improve disability access to public transport in line with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (2021-2022 program)
- Advocate for the construction of Wollert Rail
- Advocate for better public transport, including better rail, tram and bus infrastructure and services
- Support the community to establish and sustain community gardens
- Streets for people - Study and implement local area traffic management areas 26 and 32 in Mill Park and 09 in Thomastown
- Secure opportunities to facilitate social and affordable housing in Whittlesea through the Victorian Government Big Housing Build
- Advocate for more affordable housing and emergency accommodation, including for our Hope Street First Response Youth Service accommodation partnership
- Develop bins in parks policy



Strong local economy



Actions we will deliver in 2021-2022:

- Implement and deliver a communications plan in partnership of business-related resources, activities and use of spaces
- As part of COVID-19 recovery, deliver a 'support local' campaign and incentive program to support the community and local businesses
- Plan with partners to support young people in preparation for future job opportunities
- Increase capacity building and training in the community to enhance employment opportunities for unemployed and underemployed residents
- Strengthen business to business connections (Business Hub)
- Deliver a Strong Local Economy Strategy
- Advocate for the delivery of an appropriate planning framework for the Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal (BIFT)
- Draft the Epping Central structure plan for community consultation
- Ensure City of Whittlesea actively participates and advocates for the delivery of MFIX (Melbourne Food Innovation and Export Hub)
- Prepare the Kindergarten Reform Options Paper produced to inform the development of Council's Long Term Community Infrastructure Plan
- Upgrade the building at McLeans Road Kindergarten
- Participate in the Connecting Victoria Program
- Progress Whittlesea Farm and Food Collective
- Support sustainable local agribusiness

Sustainable environment



Actions we will deliver in 2021-2022:

- Implement the Rethinking Waste Plan
- Design a residential glass recycling service for piloting
- Encourage sustainable procurement across Council, selecting products that generate economic, social and environmental benefits whenever it is practicable
- Renew and upgrade Peter Hopper Lake in Mill Park
- Renew Carlingford Wetlands in Lalor
- Draft Green Wedge Management Plan ready for consultation
- Deliver the 2021-2022 Residential Street Tree Renewal Planting Program
- Deliver the 2021-2022 Parks Tree and Major Facilities Planting Program
- Engage with Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Council and relevant fire ecology experts to advise on landscape fire management practices
- Deliver the 2021-2022 Main Roads and High Profile Streetscapes Planting Program
- Develop a program handbook and resource plan for each of the five major biodiversity portfolios (biodiversity monitoring, interpretation and engagement, pest animal management and ecological burning)
- Deliver the 2021-2022 Conservation Reserves Tree Planting Program
- Implement the 2021-2022 program of Greening Whittlesea - City Forest Strategy, including an equity focussed Health Impact Assessment (EfHIA).
- Deliver the Infill Street Tree Planting Program (2021-2022 program)
- Map the City of Whittlesea's biodiversity assets
- Update the water asset register and review the maintenance programs for Council's water bodies, and stormwater treatment systems
- Develop Climate Change Risk and Governance Project Plan, implement project and develop Climate Change Risk and Governance Action
- Introduce a program to support the uptake of renewable energy options using Environmental Upgrade Agreements
- Finalise the City Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
- Commence the transition of operational fleet to electric and/or hydrogen vehicles
- Deliver various Energy Efficiency Programs (2021-2022 program)
- Deliver the Street Light Bulk Replacement Program (2021-2022 program)
- Undertake feasibility and investigate partnerships for a re-use recovery shop
- Identify locations for recycling drop off point and align to our place-based approach
- Undertake a service review of the hard waste service
- Advocate to protect the grassy eucalypt woodlands
- Deliver the 2021-2022 Mernda Rail Matted Flax-Lily Translocation Project actions



High-performing organisation



Actions we will deliver in 2021-2022:

- Deliver the 2021-2022 Customer First Program actions
- Improve customer experience with a new Council website
- Prepare State and Federal pre-budget submissions and advocacy for key community priorities
- Develop a Workforce Plan
- Commence developing longer term strategies for W2040 key goals and high performing organisation
- Commence implementation of our place-based service delivery model, including promotion of local services and identification of service gaps
- Develop the 2021-2025 Budget
- Develop the 2021-2031 Financial Plan
- Develop a Complaints Policy
- Develop the Community Plan 2021-2025
- Provide six-monthly Administrator reports on the performance against the Good Governance Action Plan
- Develop the 2022-2031 Asset Plan
- Commence drafting of Community Infrastructure Plan

- Strengthen integrated community engagement in line with the *Local Government Act 2020*
- Create a mix of digital, online and print communications to reach our diverse communities
- Publish print community newsletter "Local Scoop" bi-monthly rather than quarterly
- Continue to implement Council's Financial Hardship Policy to support financially vulnerable residents
- Develop the 2020-2021 Annual Report
- Develop and implement the health check performance report
- Commence developing an organisation outcomes and measurements framework
- Identify key initiatives that have a "direct and significant impact on community" for gender impact assessment under the Gender Equality Act 2020
- Review fees and charges to ensure a fair system that is sustainable financially



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