



Connected Community Action Plan 2024-2026



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Whittlesea recognises the rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities heritage of this country and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and the Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of this place.

The City of Whittlesea offer various language services to help you communicate with us.

Phone: 9217 2170

National Relay Service: 133 677 (ask for 9217 2170)

Connect with us in your preferred language



Purpose of this document

The Connected Community Action Plan 2024–2026 (Action Plan) sets out the actions the Council will focus on delivering in the first two financial years of the Connected Community Strategy (Strategy).

The Connected Community Action Plan summarises what we will do to drive better community outcomes by building social cohesion, community health and safety, and community participation.

Actions are outlined under three Key Directions, each focusing on the outcomes we aim to achieve.



Key direction 1: A socially cohesive community

Outcomes

- All members of our community feel that they belong, are valued and respected
- Our community strengthens connections between diverse cultures
- Our community shares stories and learns from one another
- Our community values and respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and celebrates their rich diverse cultures



Key direction 2: A healthy and safe community

Outcomes

- Our community is healthy, well and physically active
- Our community can live independently and safely
- Our children and young people are supported to thrive
- Our community experiences financial wellbeing
- Our community feels safe and supported
- Our community experiences healthy, equal and respectful relationships, and live free from abuse and family violence
- Our community is prepared and able to respond and recover from emergencies



Key direction 3: A participating community

Outcomes

- Our community is empowered and enabled to participate in decision-making
- Our community values and acknowledges volunteering



Council's role

The Action Plan indicates Council's role in delivering each of the actions, what we aim to achieve, and activities that Council may undertake to support the Connected Community Strategy.

Role	Aim	Activities
Provider	<p>To provide community infrastructure and services that address community need.</p> <p>To aid social cohesion and promote community wellbeing.</p>	<p>Deliver community facilities.</p> <p>Manage and improve services Council provides by implementing projects, programs and activities.</p>
Facilitator	<p>To establish partnerships and collaborate with stakeholders.</p> <p>To create social connections and community participation opportunities.</p>	<p>Partner with key stakeholders to support shared development, provision and utilisation of services.</p>
Advocate	<p>To support better service provision from key delivery partners by influencing decision-making, rather than direct involvement.</p>	<p>Educate key stakeholders including higher levels of government to address provision gaps.</p> <p>Influence government and decision-making.</p>



Key direction 1

A socially cohesive community



Actions	Council's Role
All members of our community feel that they belong, are valued and respected	
Provide vibrant and welcoming community facilities that are responsive to community needs as well as providing a safe, secure and inclusive environment for the community to gather.	Provider
Work with our partners to understand and address barriers experienced by multicultural, new arrival and asylum seeker communities.	Provider
Work with our partners to deliver the Whittlesea Anti-Racism Project.	Advocate/Facilitator
Our community values and respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and celebrates their rich, diverse cultures	
Promote, build respect and increase visibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the community by providing opportunities for participation and cultural development.	Provider/Facilitator
Complete construction of an Aboriginal Gathering Place to foster connections to culture, heritage, land and healing.	Provider
Develop a Cultural Heritage Plan that will reference Aboriginal cultural heritage, historic cultural heritage and natural heritage in the municipality.	Provider
Pilot community programs to inform and support the Aboriginal Gathering Place.	Provider/Facilitator
Continue commitment to reconciliation and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by promoting collaboration and partnership to support cultural practices and knowledge sharing.	Facilitator

Key direction 1

A socially cohesive community



Actions	Council's Role
Our community shares stories and learns from one another	
Enhance the delivery of, and participation in, creative and cultural experiences by strengthening avenues of support that enable our community to deliver their own art, culture and heritage activities.	Provider/Facilitator
Deliver a grant funding program that enables event organisers and artists to apply for small, medium and large grants to support the community to deliver their initiatives.	Provider
Identify opportunities to display and exhibit work by local artists and Council's civic history, visual and public art collection.	Provider
Develop and facilitate a network of local artists and creative practitioners to provide opportunities for networking, collaborations and capacity building.	Provider/Facilitator
Our community strengthens connections between diverse cultures	
Provide opportunities for people to develop and express their creativity, culture and artistic expression through a diverse range of events, programs and activities at Council facilities.	Provider
Undertake renewals and improvements in Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre (PRACC) to enhance the user and visitor experience.	Provider
Review arts and culture engagement practices to increase the presentation of the stories of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and diverse cultural communities.	Provider
Work with communities and partners to develop and deliver culturally safe programs and activities.	Provider/Facilitator
Create opportunities for multicultural communities to come together and celebrate their culture through festivals and significant dates.	Facilitator





Key direction 2

A healthy and safe community



Actions	Council's Role
Our community feels safe and supported	
Strengthen the focus on equity, inclusion, cultural safety and accessibility in how spaces are designed and integrate into local neighbourhoods, ensuring they are places where all community members can connect and participate. ¹	Provider
Continue to develop and implement the Town Centre Revitalisation Plan to ensure our neighbourhoods are well-designed and enable all people to connect. ²	Provider
Prepare Public Realm Lighting Guidelines to encourage increased use of open spaces and improve perceptions of safety. ²	Provider
Celebrate diversity and inclusion in our community by recognising dates of significance, such as International Day of People with a Disability, International Human Rights Day, IDAHOBIT, Wear It Purple, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.	Provider
Identify and complete gender impact assessments on key initiatives that have a direct and significant impact on community under the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> .	Provider
Develop programs which activates open spaces and facilitates increasing use through events, arts and of community led initiatives. ²	Provider/Facilitator
Deliver compliance and environmental health programs, along with support services designed to protect and improve public health and wellbeing of the community. This includes education, prevention, monitoring, enforcement and promoting health awareness.	Provider
Strengthen partnerships to enhance community awareness and maintain a prevention focus in providing local responses for people who are experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough in the municipality.	Facilitator
Work in partnership with external business and services to provide inclusive spaces and places for our community.	Facilitator
Develop a proposal to establish an advisory group with the LGBTIQ+ community to support delivery of inclusive activities and programs in Council facilities and spaces.	Facilitator
Continue to run animal adoption campaigns to find new homes for stray animals in our municipality. ³	Provider/Facilitator
Deliver aquatic education programs at Council's aquatic centres, with a particular focus on programs for multicultural communities.	Facilitator

¹ Action in the City of Whittlesea Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan 2024-2033
² Action in the City of Whittlesea Liveable Neighbourhood Strategy 2023-2033
³ Action in the City of Whittlesea Community Plan Action Plan 2024-2025

Key direction 2

A healthy and safe community



Actions	Council's Role
Our community experiences financial wellbeing	
Strengthen approaches to the planning and implementation of affordable services, programs and activities in Council services and facilities.	Facilitator
Collaborate with partners to advocate and prevent the risks of gambling harm.	Facilitator
Promote awareness of the risks and harms of gambling, including supporting Gambling Harm Awareness Week activities.	Advocate/Facilitator
Our community is healthy, well and physically active	
Implement the Fair Access Policy to support increased participation, equity and inclusion in local sports amongst women, girls and gender diverse people.	Provider
Continue the Let Everyone Actively Participate (LEAP) programming to ensure older adults have access to physical health and wellbeing opportunities.	Provider
Strengthen relationships with community-based organisations to support opportunities for participation in lifelong learning activities and programs.	Facilitator
Continue programming in collaboration with Yarra Plenty Regional Library to provide opportunities for our diverse communities to read, learn, connect and live well.	Facilitator
Facilitate, advocate and plan for the delivery of spaces, programs and activities that increase community participation in formal and informal physical activities.	Facilitator/Advocate
Advocate for access to community services and social and physical infrastructure that address disadvantage in the City of Whittlesea.	Advocate
Our community can live independently and safely	
Provide opportunities for older adults to access high quality and safe home support services through the provision of Commonwealth Home Support Services and expansion into Home Care Packages.	Provider
Work with our partners to provide sector support and development, ensuring readiness for Aged Care reform.	Facilitator
Continue to be reform ready and implement Commonwealth Aged Care reforms by following the Ageing Well Road Map to ensure continuity of service for older people in City of Whittlesea.	Provider
Enhance planning to promote age-friendly communities and spaces, creating opportunities for older adults to strengthen social connections through Positive Ageing services, programs and events.	Facilitator

Key direction 2

A healthy and safe community



Actions	Council's Role
Our children and young people are supported to thrive	
Provide opportunities for diverse communities across the municipality to access middle years programs in collaboration with our partners.	Provider
Provide opportunities to increase rates of participation in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services for vulnerable children and families through pop-up and planned children's and family events.	Provider
Work with our partners to ensure adequate provision of early years facilities to accommodate increased demand for kindergarten through the Best Start Best Life Kinder Reform.	Facilitator
Continue partnerships to promote local pathways to jobs and careers for young people. ⁴	Facilitator
Advocate to build responsive service systems to meet the needs of young people.	Advocate
Our community experiences healthy, equal and respectful relationships and live free from abuse and family violence	
Engage with men in preventing gender-based violence through a collaborative network that develops effective strategies to address and reduce violence in our community.	Facilitator
Promote prevention of violence against women in our community and its driver of gender inequality by recognising dates of significance, including 16 Days of Activism and International Women's Day, in partnership with external agencies. ⁴	Facilitator
Work with partners to deliver a Health Justice Partnership to increase support for families experiencing family violence and associated legal concerns.	Facilitator
Improve access to Prevention of Violence Against Women programs, services and resources including among cultural and linguistically diverse community groups. ⁴	Advocate
Our community is prepared and able to respond and recover from emergencies	
Increase community emergency resilience and preparedness, including for at-risk people and communities. ⁴	Provider
Partner with emergency services and relief agencies to improve community preparedness and resilience to emergencies for people most at risk to climate change and natural disasters. ⁵	Facilitator

⁴ Action in the City of Whittlesea Community Plan Action Plan 2024-2025

⁵ Action in the City of Whittlesea High Performing Organisation Strategy 2023-2028



Key direction 3

A participating community



Actions	Council's Role
Our community feels safe and supported	
Develop an inclusive access communications protocol to support social connections as part of the High Performing Organisation Strategy (HPO).	Provider
Develop and implement frameworks for communicating and engaging with under-represented cohorts including youth, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.	Provider
Strengthen community engagement and bolster emergency preparedness using a multi-purpose vehicle making it easier for our community to stay informed and have their say on matters that are important to them.	Provider
Work with the City of Whittlesea Youth Council to support and enhance opportunities for young people to engage with the Council and have their voices heard.	Provider
Our community values and acknowledges volunteering	
Recognise the value and contribution of volunteers and volunteering by delivering the annual City of Whittlesea National Volunteer Week event.	Provider
Strengthen provision of the Volunteer Resource Service in conjunction with our partners.	Facilitator

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Connect with us in your
preferred language:

Free telephone interpreter service



131 450