

Community Plan Action Plan 2022-2023

This Community Plan Action Plan 2022-2023 (Action Plan) is the annual supplement to the Community Plan 2021-2025. It outlines the key actions we will focus on delivering throughout the second year of the Community Plan under our five goals: a connected community, liveable neighbourhoods, a strong local economy, a sustainable environment and a high-performing organisation.¹

Connected community



- Deliver the second phase of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Family Violence Project to normalise gender equality and reduce family violence
- Reduce abuse of elders through education, awareness and prevention initiatives as part of the Northern Metro Elder Abuse Prevention Network
- Deliver the Cat De-sexing Program to reduce the number of stray, abandoned and unwanted cats
- Hold an annual Pet Expo in partnership with neighbouring councils
- Increase community preparedness and resilience before, during and after emergencies
- Enhance community safety by improving how we monitor and audit building and pool compliance
- Work with partners to lead recovery from COVID-19 pandemic including vaccinations and COVID-19 safe health messaging
- Deliver the Infrastructure Accessibility Program to make it easier for people of all abilities to access and use council facilities
- Develop a Connected Community Strategy to guide how we create a socially cohesive, healthy, safe and engaged community
- Continue to build leadership capability and skills of residents through the delivery of a Community Leadership program
- Review the Maternal Child Health service to improve cultural safety for our Aboriginal community
- Deliver a place-based festival and events program including initiatives supporting arts, culture, heritage and community recovery efforts to reconnect and foster wellbeing
- Support the Whittlesea Agricultural Show as one of the municipality's largest events
- Progress delivery of an Aboriginal Gathering Place that will increase connections to culture, heritage, land and healing
- Advocate for funding to build an Aboriginal Gathering Place
- Pilot community programs to inform the Aboriginal Gathering Place
- Advocate for mental health services
- Deliver the Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing - Mental Health First Aid for Teens and Safe Minds jointly with the Department of Education
- Advocate for funding for a regional sports and aquatic centre in Mernda
- Undertake service planning which incorporates federal government reform anticipated over the next two years to ensure our older residents transition well to the national market-based aged care and disability system
- Commence delivering social support services and positive ageing activities at the Mernda Social Support facility
- Finalise the business case and complete design investigations for the regional sports and aquatic centre in Mernda
- Design utility services to support the regional sports and aquatic centre in Mernda
- Complete the redevelopment of Mill Park Basketball Stadium
- Complete the upgrade of the pavilion at HR Uren Reserve in Thomastown
- Construct a basketball court, shelter and social gathering spaces and upgrade paths at the western end of Norris Bank Reserve
- Design the redevelopment of the Norris Bank tennis courts
- Commence replacing the synthetic soccer pitch at Harvest Home Road in Epping North
- Commence designing the Patterson Drive Community Centre in Donnybrook
- Strengthen engagement activities with diverse communities
- Consult with the Youth Advisory Committee about a transition to a Whittlesea Youth Council
- Commence developing the new 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



- Continue improvements to Whittlesea Public Gardens which will include a skate park, rock climbing wall, basketball courts, barbecue and shelter area and a car park
- Develop and commence construction of the playground at Redleap Reserve
- Commence construction of a new playground, shelters and a multi-purpose court at Kelynack Reserve
- Upgrade the dog off leash park at Delacombe Park in South Morang
- Rehabilitate the conservation reserve in the northern part of Worchester Park in Bundoora
- Construct the pedestrian bridge at Huskisson Reserve in Lalor
- Finalise new Public Toilet Amenity Plan and commence implementation
- Start construction of Granite Hills Major Community Park
- Commence Quarry Hills Regional Park trail network construction
- Deliver the missing path links program to improve connectivity across our path network and help increase levels of walking and cycling participation
- Commence upgrading the intersection at Findon Road and Williamsons Road
- Deliver local road resurfacing works
- Reconstruct local roads
- Undertake condition and performance audit of roads
- Advocate for funds for new or upgraded roads
- Improve disability access to public transport including providing appropriate shelter and seating
- Advocate for the construction of Wollert Rail
- Advocate for better public transport, including better rail, tram and bus infrastructure and services
- Renew playgrounds and general landscape improvements
- Improve road safety, paths, lighting, open space and overall liveability in the priority areas in Mill Park and Thomastown
- Undertake assessments to protect dry stone walls
- Continue the Aboriginal Heritage Study including field work and assessment of significant cultural heritage sites
- Draft neighbourhood design guidelines and principles for activity centres and medium-density housing to improve amenity and functionality
- Commence streetscape improvements at Gorge Road shopping precinct in South Morang
- Investigate and 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
- Commence installing additional bins in parks
- Upgrade school crossings, speed zones and paths as part of the Safe Routes to Schools program
- Commence developing a Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy to drive Council's program of work to deliver desirable transport, planning, urban design, open space and housing outcomes



Strong local economy



- Strengthen the visitor and agri-tourism economies by implementing a new Destination Tourism Plan
 - Develop an Agri-Food Action Plan to attract investment in the sector and support existing businesses
 - As part of COVID-19 recovery, deliver a 'support local' campaign to support the community and local businesses
 - Increase capacity building and training in the community to enhance employment opportunities for unemployed and underemployed residents
 - Develop and commence delivering the Economic Participation Plan to make it easier for underrepresented and vulnerable community members to participate and thrive
 - Streamline and digitise the business approvals process
 - Commence the Investment Attraction Communications Framework to support local businesses to innovate and thrive
 - Develop a Council incentives package for business attraction and support
 - Commence implementing the Shopfront Improvement Program
 - Finalise draft of the Epping Central structure plan for community consultation
 - Work in partnership and advocate for the MFIX (Melbourne Food and Export Hub) and the BIFT (Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal)
 - Progress planning and development of key activity centres and employment precincts including Cloverton Metropolitan Activity Centre and the Plenty Valley and Epping Central structure plans
 - Finalise the development plan for Vearings Road employment precinct
 - Plan for increased kindergarten demand to support our growing population
- Investigate co-working spaces with Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries to increase opportunities for residents to participate in the workforce
 - Review the library service to inform transition to a new entity as required under the Local Government Act 2020
 - Increase participation and access to library services through additional 'satellite' library programming at community centres
 - Progress the Community Farm and Food Collective
 - Support sustainable local agribusiness



Sustainable environment



- Implement the Rethinking Waste Plan to support our community to become a leader in sustainable living
 - Introduce a rebate program for reusable nappies, reusable sanitary products and composting tools
 - Implement a glass recycling bin service as a fourth kerbside collection bin for residents, to further decrease waste to landfill and improve resource recovery
 - Renew and upgrade Peter Hopper Lake in Mill Park
 - Construct Wilton Vale Wetland Boardwalk in South Morang
 - Refurbish Janefield Wetlands Boardwalk in Bundoora
 - Draft and consult with community on a new Green Wedge Management Plan
 - Deliver the Residential Street Tree Renewal Planting Program
 - Deliver the Parks Tree and Major Facilities Planting Program
 - Deliver the Conservation Reserves Tree Planting Program
- Work with Traditional Owners to obtain Aboriginal cultural heritage permits for land management works in conservation reserves
 - Better protect conservation reserves through rezoning
 - Map our biodiversity assets to help protect and enhance them throughout the planning process
 - Model habitat connectivity to better understand impacts of fragmentation and urban growth on our biodiversity, and to inform our incentive programs, land management and planning scheme for better biodiversity outcomes
 - Support our business community to improve the sustainability of their facilities using Environmental Upgrade Agreements
 - Partner with Traditional Owners to develop land management partnerships
 - Help our community learn and connect with the environment through the Nature Stewards Program
 - Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings and facilities including solar and lighting upgrades
 - Continue to replace our street lights with energy efficient bulbs
 - Advocate to protect the grassy eucalypt woodlands
 - Continue to manage populations of Matted Flax-lily relocated from the Mernda Rail site

High-performing organisation



- Through the delivery of our Customer First project, continue to make it easier for residents to interact with Council
- Make it easier for our community to apply for local law permits online such as roadside and footpath trading
- Continue our digital transformation to improve our efficiency and customer service
- Advocate on behalf of our community leading up to the State election and work with new sitting State and Federal members post-election
- Implement the Workforce Plan to attract and retain skilled staff to deliver for our community
- Implement the Gender Equality Action Plan to ensure a safe and equal workplace and progress towards becoming an Employer of Choice
- Deliver the Emerging Leaders Program to strengthen leadership skills of staff
- Develop High-Performing Organisation Strategy to guide effective and efficient use of resources, and good governance at Council
- Commence implementation of our place-based service delivery model, including promotion of local services and identification of service gaps
- Deliver a place-based youth development program providing services to young people close to where they live, recreate, study and work
- Finalise the Thomastown and Lalor Urban Design Framework to enhance liveability and connection in the area
- Develop the 2024-2027 Budget
- Develop the 2024-2033 Financial Plan
- Publicly report on Council's good governance and delivery of the Community Plan
- Develop a long-term Community Infrastructure Plan to guide the development of community, arts and cultural facilities
- Develop and implement Council's Research and Analytics Plan to inform evidence-based decision-making
- Create a program of regular pop-up activities across the municipality to increase engagement opportunities for community to help shape our programs and decision-making
- Undertake communications-focused research to understand how we can best communicate with our diverse communities in a fast-changing digital landscape
- Develop the 2021-2022 Annual Report
- Progress the organisational outcomes and measurements framework to ensure all the work Council does benefits community
- Participate in tender and shared services opportunities prioritised by the Northern Councils Alliance
- Identify key initiatives that have a "direct and significant impact on community" for gender impact assessment under the Gender Equality Act 2020
- Review policy for our fees and charges to ensure a fair system that is sustainable financially
- Review children, family and ageing well service clinical governance model to better address an increasingly complex risk, compliance and legislative operating environment



You can contact the Administrators on 9217 2500 or email panel@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

June 2022

Street address:
Council Offices
25 Ferres Boulevard,
South Morang VIC 3752

Email us: info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Visit our website: whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Postal address:
City of Whittlesea
Locked Bag 1, Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

Call us:
Phone: 9217 2170
National Relay Service: 133 677
(ask for 9217 2170)
Free telephone interpreter service:
If you speak a language other than
English, please call 131 450

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 **131 450**