Council Plan Action Plan 2025/26 DRAFT

The actions that have been selected to feature in the 2025/26 Council Plan Action Plan directly support the objectives outlined in the four-year Integrated Council Plan and aligns with the 2025/26 Budget. This alignment maintains focus and line of sight in achieving long-term community outcomes.

Community feedback received through Shaping Whitehorse community engagement, along with Councillor support, has helped to shape these actions.

MI Denotes linkage to a Major Initiative listed in the 25/26 Budget

	2025/26 Council Plan Actions
Strategic Direction 1: Community	
Objective 1.1 An involved and connected community	Conduct a review of Council's **Outdoor Event Framework** to maximise the efficiency of Council's permitting process to host public events in open space
	Deliver the **Community Voices Project** to provide an inclusive and engaging experience for seniors and the broader community.
	Partner with community organisations to **activate new and innovative ways to engage young people** and support them to access relevant information and referrals.
	Implement a **Community Funding Accelerator Program** to increase education on grants for community
Objective 1.2: A community that fosters social inclusion, cohesion and respect	Create a **Multicultural Advisory Committee** to create a new way for culturally diverse community members to have a formal voice to Council
Objective 1.3: A healthy and active community	*Actions listed under the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan Action Plan 2025/26*
Objective 1.4: A community where people feel safe	Establish a **Community Safety Crime Prevention Committee** to work collaboratively with safety partners across the Municipality MI

Council Plan Action Plan 2025/26 DRAFT

Strategic Direction 2: Built	
Objective 2.1 Safe and accessible public places	Create a **priority list of public spaces to review** for safe and easy access
	Enhance and upgrade pedestrian and cycling paths across the municipality to encourage active transport uptake by the Community.
	Deliver the **Cycling Strategy** recommendations to promote healthy living outcomes
	Implement the **Connect with Confidence - Public Transport Community Education Program** for older people to improve confidence and overcome barriers to use public transport
Objective 2.2 Community facilities and shared spaces are well used	Prepare **Koonung Park Master Plan** to guide the park's renewal and improvements over the next 15 years MI
	Review Council's approach to the management of **privately constructed buildings on council land**
	Review and update the **Sporting Facilities Guidelines** to promote increased community use and accessibility
Objective 2.3: Sustainable planning and infrastructure to respond to population change	Undertake the statutory process following the adoption of the **Whitehorse Open Space Strategy** MI
	Review and revise Council's **Housing Strategy** to ensure currency and alignment with the Plan for Victoria
	Endorsement of the **Community Infrastructure Plan** to help guide Council's investment in community facilities over the next 20 years MI
	Advocate for community needs in **Suburban Rail Loop precinct structure planning** process to ensure that the future needs of our community are considered MI
	Review the **Municipal Emergency Management Plan** to ensure a focus on greater density living
	Implement **Planning Scheme Provision** changes following the Municipal Flood Modelling
Objective 2.4 A desirable and well-presented City	Implement **streetscape and drainage improvement** across the municipality, for example Hamilton Street and Vermont East Shopping Strip upgrades
	Establish a **cross functional improvement team** to combat, measure and report dumped rubbish

DRAFT

Council Plan Action Plan 2025/26 DRAFT

Strategic Direction 3: Economy	
3.1: A thriving local economy	Deliver a **business training and mentoring calendar** that provides opportunities for businesses to learn and grow
	Partner with Business and Trader Associations in Whitehorse to deliver **initiatives for the business community to network and celebrate** and recognise business excellence.
	Review Council's **Procurement Policy** and procurement activities, including holding workshops, to maximise potential Whitehorse investment into local businesses'
	Design a **local trader marketing program**, which focuses on individual businesses and activity centres which encourages local spend.
	Develop a **prioritisation approach for streetscape improvements**
	Develop a **Whitehorse Visitor and Tourism Strategy**
3.2 Local businesses supported through change	Partner with Business and Trader Associations and key stakeholders to **deliver training which supports navigating disruption / change**.
	Work with the State Government to monitor and provide strong support for businesses, employees and customers **displaced and impacted by Suburban Rail Loop**. MI
3.3: Diverse education, employment & volunteering opportunities	Partner with **Eastern Volunteers to establish a Whitehorse Volunteering Navigation Hub** to serve as a central resource, connecting community members with meaningful volunteer opportunities that match their skills and interests
	Improve **Council's Student Placement and Work Experience** offering MI
	Implement a **Council apprenticeship and traineeship program** MI
	Facilitate connections between higher education and vocational education and training providers and local businesses to **promote industry/employment opportunities.** MI
	Scope and initiate a **Deakin Memorandum of Understanding** to enhance collaboration and maximise opportunities for students and graduates MI
	Provision of public library services that support equitable and inclusive access to and use of information and knowledge systems, and community spaces

DRAFT

Council Plan Action Plan 2025/26 DRAFT

Strategic Direction 3: Economy	
3.4: A City that attracts investment and jobs	Establish a **business concierge program** to improve the customer experience when navigating through Council's permit system MI
	Facilitate the **activation of markets in Box Hill and Mitcham** to attract evening attendance into these two activity centres.
	Identify future placemaking projects and spaces for placemaking to **activate key activity centres**, including initiatives that enhance the public realm and increase local utilisation.
	Develop an **Investment Strategy** with view to increase investment, identify potential industries, and reach out to investors.

Strategic Direction 4: Natural	
4.1 Enhanced and protected natural and green spaces	Continue to deliver **North East Link funded tree planting** of local indigenous trees to offset trees removed as part of the Victorian Government project. MI
	Advocate for **improved open spaces for the Community** as part of the State Government's North East Link project MI
	Coordinate the **Whitehorse National Tree Day planting event** in collaboration with the local community to provide the opportunity to be involved with an environmental project with great impact
	Facilitate workshops to **grow existing and create new 'friends of' groups**
4.2 An environmentally sustainable and climate resilient City	Develop an **Emissions Reduction Plan** for Council operations to work towards reducing emissions including energy efficiency, electrification, renewable energy and fleet opportunities.
4.3 A Council that responsibly and sustainably manages waste	Finalise Council's **kerbside bin transition plan** to implement this legislative service change MI

DRAFT

Council Plan Action Plan 2025/26 DRAFT

Strategic Direction 5: Governance	
5.1 An open, transparent, accountable and responsible Council	Improve access on Council's website to **Council registers and information** prescribed under the *Local Government Act 2020*
5.2 A Council that delivers core services that are fit for purpose and good value.	Create **Customer Commitments** that reflect service standards and customer expectations MI
	Plan and deliver **technologies that improve process and the customer experience** MI
	Deliver **service reviews** to ensure Council services meet the changing needs of the community and explore collaborative service delivery options, including with regional partners
5.3 A Council that actively engages with the community for genuine feedback and input	Determine the **Whitehorse Manningham Libraries Governance Model** in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* to plan for the future governance arrangements for the provision of library services
	Support **Neighbourhood House funding review** to encourage local promotion activities
	Host a **creative think tank** to engage young people to solve real life challenges (e.g. Hack-a-thon)
	Roll out an **improved 'close the loop' process for Council community engagements** to provide community members with regular communication and project updates
5.4 A Council that is well governed, efficient and financially sustainable	Deliver **transformative initiatives that continuously improve our operations** with an ongoing commitment to delivering improvement projects with reportable benefits to the community
	Develop Council's **Strategic Property Framework and Roadmap** to support Council in making decisions to improve the utilisation and management of its property portfolio MI

Monitoring and Reporting

To facilitate transparency and accountability, the actions listed in this annual action plan will be reported back to the Community on a quarterly basis in the Whitehorse Quarterly Performance Report. This report is made available on Council's website after being presented to Council for each quarter of the financial year. You can find all of Councils Quarterly Performance Reports here: https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/about-council/what-we-do/publications/corporate-documents/performance-reports

DRAFT