

Shaping **Our** Future

Whittlesea 2025 – Strategic Community Plan



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Introduction



Cr Mary Lalios
Mayor

Welcome to the Whittlesea 2025 Strategic Community Plan. This is an historical document that has involved the input of our community to ensure it reflects the aspirations of the whole community.

I thank you for taking the time to read the plan and I thank absolutely everyone who has had input into the process of creating it.

The plan has been developed by our community, for our community and is the key document which shapes the future direction of the City of Whittlesea. This plan looks at our past and what is happening now, to help guide what our future should be.

As part of the process, a long-term vision for our city for the year 2025 was created. It identifies our community’s vision for the future, considers the needs and priorities of residents and sets out ways for Council and community partners to achieve these.

In drawing the Community Plan together, Council facilitated many different ways for people of all ages and backgrounds to have input. We had a totally new approach, making the consultation more accessible and bringing the community together to hear each other. More than 650 people were involved in some way and it has been an amazing journey to be part of. The response from our community was fantastic and this plan is a reflection of the input on topics including the connectedness, inclusivity and diversity of our city.

The process of drawing up the plan was truly rewarding and we look forward to seeing it act as a helpful guide and benchmark for the future progress of our municipality.

I think you will agree with me that in helping to guide our community towards a positive and sustainable future, all our efforts are certainly worthwhile.

Cr Mary Lalios
Mayor



Cr Sam Alessi



Cr John Fry



Cr Rex Griffin



Cr Norm Kelly



Cr Stevan Kozmevski



Cr Pam McLeod



Cr Frank Merlino



Cr Kris Pavlidis

We recognise the rich Indigenous heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willam Clan as the traditional custodians of this place.

Vision Statement

This describes the City of Whittlesea in 2025. It is the destination we will work together to achieve.

All languages speaking in harmony

Our point of difference and strength is the diversity of our people.

We come from different places around the world bringing with us many languages, faiths and customs.

We live together in harmony, respecting the past and each other's identity.

Diversity makes the City of Whittlesea alive and vibrant.

Connecting people, environment and economy

We learn and grow together, sharing our rich and diverse stories.

The natural environment in and around our homes and in our rural areas is cared for now and for the future.

Socially we connect through friendships, gatherings, events and celebrations.

A diversified economy helps us respond to change and work where we live.

Physical and digital highways connect our community to the world.

For now and the future

We acknowledge and respect our past and provide for today with tomorrow in mind.

Our City will be a better place for our children and the generations to come.





Our Guiding Principles

As a community, we will be guided by the following principles. Where there are choices or decisions to be made we will use these principles to help us choose wisely. In all aspects of our lives and in all that we do we will endeavour to:

Be innovative and sustainable

Have the courage to look for new ways and try new things, step up and lead and take risks if it means making a difference.

The decisions we make today will not diminish the potential of Our City for our children and the generations to come.

Be inclusive, get involved and participate

Everyone has something to offer and there are many ways to be part of our community.

We value difference, welcome participation, build tolerance, understanding and empathy through inclusion.

Show respect, have integrity and be honest

We respect our past, our environment, each other and all our differences.

We tell it like it is; Say what we do and do what we say.



Future Directions

There are six future directions to follow to reach our 2025 destination:



Inclusive and engaged community



Accessibility in, out and around our City



Growing our economy



Places and spaces to connect people



Health and wellbeing



Living sustainably

Each future direction with its strategic outcomes is described in this plan along with Council's role and the measures to monitor progress. Everyone can play a role in helping reach our vision. Council can be a **provider** and do what is needed or an **advocate** that works on behalf of its communities or a **facilitator** that supports the actions of others. All of Council's roles are listed but those in bold will be the key roles. Council however, is only one player in the community and cannot do everything. There are many individuals, groups and organisations that can work together to achieve our future plan.

Inclusive and engaged community

Our City is diverse and that is its strength. People from many countries with different languages, faiths and customs have made it their home. There are also urban and rural communities. When we are together we learn and grow through each other's experiences. We build skills and capacity so everyone can fully engage and participate in community life. All voices are heard and decision making takes account of all views. Our inclusive, engaged community is resilient and strong.



Strategic outcome	Council role	Who else can help
There are opportunities for people to get together and support each other	Provider Advocate Facilitator	Community sector Local businesses Schools and churches Sporting organisations
People are involved in issues that affect them	Advocate Provider Facilitator	Australian Social Inclusion Board Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) Local businesses Media
Community decision-making is inclusive	Advocate Provider	Whole of community Whittlesea Disability Network
People have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to engage and participate in community life	Advocate Provider	Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) Non Government Organisations (NGOs) Education
The community in all its forms is diverse and harmonious	Advocate Facilitator	Schools Churches Non Government Organisations (NGOs)
Measurements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance and participation in arts and cultural activities • Community acceptance of diverse cultures • Participation in citizen engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of volunteers (All above available from Community Indicators Victoria) • Number of nominations for Council elections 	

Accessibility

Access in, out and around our community happens in many ways – through public transport, roads for vehicles, walking and bike pathways, communications and digital networks. The design and construction of our built infrastructure enables access for all.



Strategic outcome	Council role	Who else can help
Present and future transport linkages are planned	Advocate Facilitator	Victorian Department of Transport (DoT) Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRDLG) Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD)
Walking and bike paths connect communities	Provider	Sport and Recreation Victoria Developers Vic Roads Bicycle Victoria
There is comprehensive broadband and mobile communication coverage	Advocate Facilitator	Australian Department of Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy Telco's Multimedia Vic
Community information is provided in a range of languages and in different ways	Provider Facilitator	Community radio Multicultural/Ethnic Media Community Whittlesea Disability Network (WDN)
Our places and spaces are accessible for all	Provider Advocate	Whittlesea Disability Network (WDN) Local businesses & developers
Transport options are safe, easy to use and connect us internally and externally	Advocate Facilitator	Northern Transport Links (NTL) Victorian Department of Transport (DoT) Transport providers (Public & Community) Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRDLG) Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD)
Measurements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in expenditure on transport within municipality Increase in household internet access and usage (as measured by Council Annual Household Survey) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in communication black spots % of Council communications written in community languages or delivered in different ways e.g. symbols and audio

Growing our economy

A diverse economy offers varied career opportunities so people can live and work in Whittlesea. Business attraction requires infrastructure and transport planning, affordable housing, skill development and a supportive regulatory environment. We need to work on supporting and developing opportunities for local business like growing the food we need locally. Education facilities offer everyone career and skill development options.



Strategic outcomes	Council role	Who else can help
Infrastructure supports business opportunities	Facilitator Advocate Provider	Governments Developers Business groups Local businesses Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRD LG)
There is a diverse range of career and skill development options	Facilitator Advocate Provider	Educational institutions Business networks Governments
There is variety and a choice of local jobs	Facilitator Advocate Provider	Governments Training providers Local businesses Developers
It is easy to do business here and local business is supported	Facilitator Provider Advocate	Governments Business networks
Transport infrastructure is provided in a timely way to meet needs	Advocate Facilitator	Governments Interest/user groups Developers
Measurements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One new job for every new dwelling Number of new businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced job migration from the municipality Increase in number of skilled workers Employment Rate 	

Places and spaces to connect people

Places, spaces and events bring people together to socialise and access services, they help build our community and an understanding and appreciation of our diversity. Our community hubs provide a central place to meet, shop, have a haircut, go to the doctor, post a letter, do banking, have coffee, visit the library and be entertained. They bring people together. Urban design develops a sense of place built on heritage. Parks and recreation facilities improve community wellbeing and can be used for events and celebrations. A cultural centre focusing on our diversity builds connections, networks, understanding and harmony. There are many pathways to bring people together in all the communities that together make our City.



Strategic outcomes	Council role	Who else can help
Our recreation facilities and open spaces are accessible and respond to local needs	Provider Advocate Facilitator	Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) Developers Non Government Organisations (NGO's) Whole of Community Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Heritage Victoria
Community hubs bring people together and provide a comprehensive range of services and entertainment experiences	Provider Advocate Facilitator	
We recognise and appreciate our physical and cultural heritage	Facilitator Advocate Provider	
Our urban design helps build connection to place and the community	Facilitator Advocate Provider	
We learn more about each other, tell our stories to respect our past whilst strengthening our present and future potential at our Cultural Centre	Facilitator Advocate	Whittlesea Community Futures Cultural Bridges Group Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD)
Measurements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of infrastructure per capita (as identified by ASR Research) Feeling part of the Community (as reported by Community Indicators Victoria) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation rates in clubs and groups (as measured in Council's Annual Household Survey) Social Support (as measured by Community Indicators Victoria)

Health and wellbeing

A healthy community that supports people through all of life's stages and cares about life-long learning has a sense of wellbeing and belonging. Health services are available locally and easily accessed in community hubs. Support is available for young people, families, the elderly and those who are isolated and disadvantaged. Communities are safe places where harm from violence, alcohol and drugs is removed. Access to education, training and information enables life-long learning for everyone.



Strategic outcomes	Council role	Who else can help
Health and wellbeing services can be accessed from a range of local places	Advocate Provider Facilitator	Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS) Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) Centrelink Schools Developers
We can live locally through all of life's stages	Facilitator Advocate	Developers Non Government Organisations (NGO's) Health Providers Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS) Employers and business
Our communities are healthy and safe	Facilitator Advocate Provider	Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS) Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) Victorian Department of Justice (DoJ) Sport & Recreation Police and Emergency Services Health Service providers (private, public and community) Churches
There are opportunities for life-long learning	Facilitator Advocate Provider	Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) DEET Education providers: Kindergartens, Schools, Universities, TAFE, University of the Third Age (U3A) and Neighborhood Houses
Families are supported through all life's stages	Provider Facilitator Advocate	Non Government Organisations (NGO's) Local community groups Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS) Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)
Measurements Access to services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring supply of and unmet demand (as measured by Council's Annual Household Survey) Live locally through all life's stages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration in, out and around the local government area Number of social housing dwellings Housing affordability 	Healthier and safer communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self reported health (Community Indicators Victoria) Perception of safety (Community Indicators Victoria) Life-long learning opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of neighbourhood houses per capita Education participation rates for kindergarten, secondary, tertiary and adult education Educational qualifications 	

Living sustainably

Our carbon footprint, water, waste, energy use, flora-particularly the majestic river red-gums and our fauna are managed sustainably so future generations can enjoy the environment in which we live. Immigration, strong housing demand, economic growth, climate change, alternative energies and transport all provide challenges for our environment, future planning and how we live. Our daily routines have changed; we plan for tomorrow and use innovation to become more sustainable. Everyone does their bit to help.



Strategic outcomes	Council role	Who else can help
Our natural environment is valued now and in the future	Facilitator Advocate	Victorian Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE) Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) Country Fire Authority (CFA) Merri and Darebin Creek Management Committees Sustainability Programs Advisory Committee (SPAC) Community based environmental groups
We live sustainably in our urban and rural areas	Facilitator Provider	Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) Building Commission National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) Regional Waste Authority Water and energy providers Growth Areas Authority Sustainability Victoria
The use of our rural land provides sustainable economic development	Facilitator Provider	Victorian Department of Sustainability & Energy (DSE) Victorian Department of Innovation Industry and Regional Development (DIIRD) Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) Landcare groups Port Phillip & Western Port Catchment Management Authority Sustainability Programs Advisory Committee (SPAC)
Measures Valuing natural environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of river red gums retained • Number of plants provided in revegetation programs Sustainable living <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants in Council's behaviour change programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling participation rates • Reduction of water and energy consumption per dwelling Sustainable rural land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of hectares used for rural production • Reduction of weeds listed in Council's Pest Plant Local Law • Membership of Landcare and other land management programs 	

Council's Four Year (2009 – 2013) Action Plan

This section of the report details what Council will do during the next four years to help achieve the 2025 destination.



Each future direction has actions and measures to monitor progress.

This section of the report will be reviewed annually so progress towards the 2025 destination can be monitored and any required adjustments made.

Community input will be sought to assist with the annual reviews.

Council's adoption of the annual budget will be informed by the future directions and the four year action plan.



Future Direction 1: Inclusive & engaged community

Our City is diverse and that is its strength. People from many countries with different languages, faiths and customs have made it their home. There are also urban and rural communities. When we are together we learn and grow through each other's experiences. We build skills and capacity so everyone can fully engage and participate in community life. All voices are heard and decision making takes account of all views. Our inclusive, engaged community is resilient and strong.

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
1.1 There are opportunities for people to get together and support each other	Engage and consult with our community, stakeholders and customers in a meaningful way	2009 - 2013	Increased participation of stakeholders in workshops, seminars, educational and promotional activities from 2009 levels as measured by the consultation & engagement register
	Continue to encourage all sporting clubs to establish an all-inclusive and welcoming social culture	2009 - 2013	Number of people who attend club development programs
	Provide an overall long term plan of facilities and services for young people	June 2010	Diversity of participation in club activities Plan developed
	Develop an overall long term plan of facilities and services for older people	June 2011	Plan developed
1.2 People are involved in issues that affect them	Inform the community, key stakeholders and customers of key achievements, project news and key data on a regular basis	2009 - 2013	Council column included in Whittlesea Leader weekly Whittlescene produced and distributed 6 times a year
	Involve community & key stakeholders in the development of process, service and facility improvements	2009 - 2013	Community increasingly involved (as measured by the consultation & engagement register)
	Align the Advocacy Kit with the Community Plan	Annually	Annual review completed and key directions are aligned to Community Plan
	Align the Human Services Strategy with the Community Plan	Annually	Annual review completed and key directions are aligned to Community Plan

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
1.3 Community decision-making is inclusive	<p>Development of a consultation & engagement policy and framework</p> <p>Review Community Grants Program including the Senior Citizens programs</p>	<p>2010</p> <p>2010 – 2013</p> <p>2009</p>	<p>Policy Adopted</p> <p>Number of actions implemented</p> <p>Review completed</p>
1.4 People have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to engage and participate in community life	<p>New residents are welcomed and encouraged to build connections with their local community</p> <p>Residents advised of local community group contacts and resources</p> <p>Community has an opportunity to attend Council meetings, access Council reports and ask questions</p>	<p>2009 – 2013</p> <p>2009</p> <p>2009 – 2013</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Number of Moving In Kits delivered</p> <p>Community Guide completed and made available</p> <p>Agenda and Minutes of Council meetings available on Council website and local libraries</p> <p>Retain or increase the number of questions asked at ordinary Council meetings</p>
1.5 The community in all its forms is diverse and harmonious	<p>Continue to support the Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council</p> <p>Continue to support Whittlesea Reconciliation Group</p> <p>Support the activities of the Interfaith Network to promote religious understanding and tolerance between faiths</p> <p>Promote equity and diversity in our workforce</p> <p>Develop a program to promote diversity and reduce discrimination</p> <p>Participate in the Melbourne University Indicators pilot project (Culturally And Linguistically Diverse communities)</p>	<p>2009 - 2013</p> <p>2009 – 2013</p> <p>2009 – 2013</p> <p>2009 - 2013</p> <p>2009</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2009</p>	<p>Bi-monthly meetings held</p> <p>Bi-monthly meetings held</p> <p>Quarterly meetings of network held</p> <p>Training and education program provided to all staff</p> <p>Internal working group established and monthly meetings held</p> <p>Advocacy group established to prioritise and oversee activities</p> <p>Indicators developed to evaluate the impact of arts and culture programs on CALD communities</p>



Future Direction 2: Accessibility in, out and around our City

Access in, out and around our community happens in many ways – through public transport, roads for vehicles, walking and bike pathways, communications and digital networks.

The design and construction of our built infrastructure enables access for all.

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
2.1 Present and future transport linkages are planned	Strategic Transport Planning Projects to include all travel modes	Annually	Number of bike network plans developed
	Advocate to State and Federal Governments for improved transport services	Annually	Number of transport projects listed in Advocacy Kit
		Annually	Number of transport projects listed in Advocacy Kit receive funding
2.2 Walking and bike paths connect communities	Map walking and cycling paths	Dec 2009	Map available and distributed to residents
	Maintain bike and walking paths	Annually	Maintain or increase satisfaction rates as measured in the Community Satisfaction Survey (roads and footpaths)
	Implement the Epping Transit City Wayfinding project recommendations	2010	Epping Transit City Wayfinding project implemented
	Deliver new footpath links within new and existing suburbs	Annually	Metres of additional bike paths constructed
	Whittlesea – Mernda bike path development	2009 - 2013	Funding received for project from State and Federal Government

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
2.3 There is comprehensive broadband and mobile communication coverage	Advocate for adequate broadband coverage to meet both current and future needs	Annually	Extension of broadband within the municipality
	Ensure accessibility to broadband across the municipality in public areas	Annually	Maintain or increase Plenty Valley Regional Library service funding to provide internet access
	Develop strategy to assist our community participate in the information economy	June 2010 2009 – 2013	Strategy developed Number of strategy actions implemented
2.4 Community information is provided in a range of languages and in different ways	Create a Web presence strategy for the delivery of information and services to the community	June 2010	Strategy developed
		2009 - 2013	Number of strategy actions implemented
	Develop communication tools that facilitate key stakeholder and community input to decisions	2009 - 2013	All Council web sites are updated to ensure the technology and communication media are conveying the message to the community Increased participation in workshops, seminars, educational and promotional activities (as measured by the consultation & engagement register)
2.5 Our places and spaces are accessible for all	Undertake maintenance audit of community spaces (facilities) accessibility requirements	2010 Annually	Audit completed and considers accessibility issues Number of accessibility actions completed
	Provide excellent customer service at all points of contact	Annually	Maintain or improve results in 2010 compared to 2009 as measured by the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – customer contact category
	Undertake “mystery shopper” customer service quality review to assess performance	Annually	“Mystery shopper” customer service quality review undertaken and results show an annual increase in performance
	Complete the suite of electronic payment options	June 2010	Electronic option available for all payment types
	Refurbished Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre Woodstock Theatre and entertainment facilities cater for all	Annually	Increased use of facilities

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
2.6 Transport options are safe, easy to use and connect us internally and externally	Promote safety at school crossings	2009 - 2013	Decrease in the number of school crossing incidents
	Provide quality road maintenance service to residents	2009 - 2013	Performance standards met
	Deliver road safety improvement projects to the satisfaction of the authorities and residents	2009 - 2013	Road safety schedule of activities meets timelines
		Annually	Statutory requirements are met
		Annually	Maintain or improve local roads and footpaths rating in the Community Satisfaction Survey
	Continue to support the Northern Transport Links project	2009-2011	Number of actions from action plan identified
		2009-2011	Number of community partners involved in the project increases
	Increase in funding for the rectification of damaged footpaths	2011	Reduction in the amount of category 1 faults as determined within the 2011 bi-annual audit of footpaths
2010		\$300K Budget allocation increase within the 2009/10 recurrent budget	



Future Direction 3: Growing our economy

A diverse economy offers varied career opportunities so people can live and work in Whittlesea. Business attraction requires infrastructure and transport planning, affordable housing, skill development and a supportive regulatory environment. We need to work on supporting and developing opportunities for local business like growing the food we need locally. Education facilities offer everyone career and skill development options.

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
3.1 Infrastructure supports business opportunities	Advocate to Federal and State Governments for timely infrastructure provision	Annually	Number of infrastructure items contained in the Advocacy Kit
		Annually	Membership and support of peak bodies (National Growth Areas Alliance, Municipal Association) maintained
3.2 There is a diverse range of career and skill development options	Attract new emerging industries (commercial, office, medical, health, green, advanced manufacturing, media and creative industries)	Annually	Number of new businesses in municipality
		Annually	Number of new jobs in municipality
	Support the establishment of a Trade Training Centre for the municipality	Late 2009	Funding received through successful grant submission
	Employment opportunities within Council are promoted locally	Annually	Number of traineeships offered
		Annually	Number of traineeships offered to specific target groups
		Annually	Number of student placements available
	Develop graduate partnerships with tertiary education providers	Annually	Number of Council employees from within municipality
		Annually	Number of graduate places at Council
	Annually	Number of joint activities conducted	

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
3.3 There is variety and a choice of local jobs	Encourage linkages and understanding between universities and local businesses needs	Annually	Number of meetings facilitated by Council held between local business and universities on new business opportunities
	Council is an employer of choice for the local community	2011	Strategic partnerships with universities, community groups, traineeship bodies and local employment agencies established and goals developed for action
	Increase the number of residents who live and work in the municipality	Annually	Number of locally employed people that live locally
	Ensure that land use encourages local employment opportunities	Annually	Decrease in the number of residents who work outside the municipality
	Encourage a growth in the tourism sector within the municipality	Annually	Minimum of one job per household available
		Annually	Growth in visitor numbers

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
3.4 It is easy to do business here and local business is supported	Provide training and business development education sessions for local businesses	Annually	Number of participants in sessions
		Annually	Number of trainee sessions held
		Annually	Satisfaction levels of participants
	Redevelop the Whittlesea Business website to better meet the needs of the business sector	Annually	Redeveloped Whittlesea Business website completed
		Annually	Number of visits on redeveloped web site
	Support strong and active business networks	Annually	Increased membership of local industry network
	Support existing businesses	2010	Promotion of City of Whittlesea as a desirable place to do business
		Annually	Growth in number of employees at existing businesses
3.5 Transport infrastructure is provided in a timely way to meet needs	Advocate to State and Federal governments for improved transport infrastructure	Annually	Number of transport projects in Advocacy Kit
	Construct funded transport projects	Annually	Number of funded projects completed

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
3.6 Sustainable financial management ensures delivery of the Community Plan	Ensure sound financial planning and management of resources	Annually	Annual budget adopted by August 30 and informed through community consultation
		Annually	Adoption of long term financial plan
		Annually	Annual report completed
		Annually	Strategic Resource Plan completed
		Annually	Community Plan reviewed
		2013	New Community Plan developed



Future Direction 4: Places and spaces to connect people

Places, spaces and events bring people together to socialise and access services; they help build our community and an understanding and appreciation of our diversity. Our community hubs provide a central place to meet, shop, have a haircut, go to the doctor, post a letter, do banking, have coffee, visit the library and be entertained. They bring people together. Urban design develops a sense of place built on heritage. Parks and recreation facilities improve community wellbeing and can be used for events and celebrations. A cultural centre focusing on our diversity builds connections, networks, understanding and harmony. There are many pathways to bring people together in all the communities that together make our city.

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
4.1 Our recreation facilities and open spaces are accessible and respond to local needs	Conduct a feasibility study and master plan for an all-abilities playground	2009	Feasibility and master plan completed
	Complete the Recreation Strategy	Dec 2009	Strategy completed
		Annually	Number of strategy actions implemented
	Maintain public open space for community enjoyment	Annually	Maintain or increase participation rates in community groups, recreation and leisure activities
		Annually	Maintain or increase the Community Satisfaction Survey rating for appearance of open spaces
	Review the Open Space Strategy	2010	Open Space Strategy review completed
Maximise shared community sporting facility use	Annually	Increase in the percentage of sporting facilities used for multiple purposes	

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
4.2 Community hubs bring people together and provide a comprehensive range of services and entertainment experiences	Support integrated service and facility planning and delivery through a partnership approach	2009 - 2013	Increase in number of human service agencies delivering services to the municipality
		2009 - 2013	Increased locations of services available in the municipality
	Undertake an audit of community needs with respect to community spaces (facilities) and develop policy	2010	Audit completed and considers community connectedness, cultural development and governance structures
	Market Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre to attract a greater range of events	2011 Annually	Policy developed Wider variety of events presented in 2009/10 than 2008/09
4.3 We recognise and appreciate our physical and cultural heritage	Facilitate celebration, community participation and collaboration in community expression at Council events	2009 - 2013	Increased attendance since 2008/09
	Support Aboriginal community members	2010	Establish the Bubup Wilam Early Learning Childhood Centre
	Implement the Cultural Heritage Program	Annually	Number of participants in cultural heritage program increases annually
	Support artistic and cultural pursuits through the delivery of programs which encourage community involvement	Annually	Deliver and increase participation rates for the First Impressions Youth Theatre workshops
		Annually	Increase in the number of participants in community art projects completed
	Develop a policy for the management and aquisition of Council's cultural Collection and public art	2011	Acquisition and management policy developed
	Review the Whittlesea Heritage Study	June 2010	Review completed
Undertake the Whittlesea Archaeological Study	June 2010	Review completed	

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
4.4 Our urban design helps build connection to place and the community	<p>Develop structure plans for activity centres in established areas of the municipality to guide long term economic growth and development opportunities</p> <p>Prepare plans to guide sustainable land use, development, transport, community and open space outcomes for new greenfield land included within the Urban Growth Boundary by the State Government as part of Melbourne @ 5 Million</p> <p>Develop the “Designing Young People In” guide</p>	<p>2010 2012 2011</p> <p>2010</p> <p>June 2010</p>	<p>Structure Plans completed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epping Central • Thomastown • Cooper Street West <p>Program to prioritise preparation of plans developed</p> <p>Guide developed</p>
4.5 We learn more about each other, tell our stories to respect our past whilst strengthening our present and future potential at our Cultural Centre	Continue to support the Cultural Bridges project	2010	Scoping and feasibility study for cultural centre completed



Future Direction 5: Health and wellbeing

A healthy community that supports people through all of life's stages and cares about life-long learning has a sense of wellbeing and belonging. Health services are available locally and easily accessed in community hubs. Support is available for young people, families, the elderly and those who are isolated and disadvantaged. Communities are safe places where harm from violence, alcohol and drugs is removed. Access to education, training and information enables life-long learning for everyone.

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
5.1 Health and wellbeing services can be accessed from a range of local places	Develop strategic partnerships with human service agencies and Governments to explore improved coordination of programs, services and physical infrastructure	2009 - 2013	Increase in the number of human service agencies delivering services to the municipality
		Annually	Increased locations of services available in the municipality
		Annually	Community satisfaction with the overall performance of Council's health and human services as measured through the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey
	Facilitate the establishment of a working group on mental health and counselling for young people	2010	Working group established
		2010	Service model strategy developed
	Undertake the Human Services Strategy review	2010	Review completed

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
5.2 We can live locally through all of life's stages	Develop Housing Diversity Policy Complete the Positive Ageing Strategy Implement the Youth Plan 2030 Develop models to support, resource and sustain community support groups	June 2010 2011 2012 - 2013 2010 2009 - 2013 2010 - 2011	Policy completed and informed through community consultation Policy adopted through Planning Scheme Number of actions implemented Strategy completed Number of actions implemented Models developed
5.3 Our communities are healthy and safe	Further develop the Emergency Management Plan Update the Pandemic Response Plan Develop good working relationships with domestic animal businesses to promote responsible pet ownership Implement the Animal Management Plan Provide opportunities for young women and men to acquire knowledge and skills to develop healthy lifestyles Implement the Health and Wellbeing Plan	Sept 2009 Dec 2009 March 2010 2009 - 2013 Annually Annually 2010 2009 - 2013 Annually 2009 - 2013 2009 – 2011 2009 - 2013	Action group established to implement Plan developed and includes a Bushfire Preparedness Plan Communication strategy developed and implemented Pandemic Response Plan updated Pet registrations increase by 10% annually Number of actions implemented Girls Go For It program implemented Program targeting young men developed Implement the Alcohol Harm Reduction project Health and Wellbeing Annual Progress Report completed Health and Wellbeing Indicators developed Steering Committee meets regularly to over-see plan implementation

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
5.4 There are opportunities for life-long learning	Support programs that work to improve education and learning outcomes	Annually Annually 2010 Annually Annually	Number of people visiting libraries (including physical and virtual visits) increases Numbers of borrowings increased Complete the Epping North and Mernda Library Strategy Support the Local Learning and Employment Network Support the Whittlesea Youth Commitment
5.5 Families are supported through all life's stages	Develop the Youth Equity Strategy (YES) Concurrently review Council's Municipal Early Years Plan and Best Start Action Plan Implement the Responsible Gambling Strategy	Annually 2010 2009 – 2013 Annually	Youth Equity Strategy implemented Plans are better integrated and adopted for implementation Responsible Gambling Forum meets at least annually Ensure a social and economic impact assessment is undertaken for proposed new gaming venues



Future Direction 6: Living sustainably

Our carbon footprint, water, waste, energy use, flora (particularly the majestic River Red Gums) and our fauna are managed sustainably so future generations can enjoy the environment in which we live. Immigration, strong housing demand, economic growth, climate change, alternative energies and transport all provide challenges for our environment, future planning and how we live. Our daily routines have changed; we plan for tomorrow and use innovation to become more sustainable. Everyone does their bit to help.

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
6.1 Our natural environment is valued now and in the future	Implement the Sustainable Water Use Plan	2009 -2013	Number of Water Task Force meetings held annually
		Annually	Number of actions in Sustainable Water Use Plan implemented
		Annually	Decrease in Council's water use
		2009 -2013	Review the viability of alternative water supply options
	Implement the Quarry Hills Bushland Management Plan	Annually	Implement the Community Water Grant projects
		2009 - 2013	Bushland Quarry Hills Management Plan implemented
		Annually	Number of River Red Gums retained
Promote and enforce the River Red Gum Protection Policy and Guidelines	2010	Plan developed	
Develop a domestic waste water (septic tank) management plan	2010	Implementation of a Net Gain Offset policy	
Minimise the impact of ongoing development on the natural environment			

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
6.2 We live sustainably in our urban and rural areas	Develop a Local Sustainability Strategy that is informed through community consultation	April 2010	Consultation conducted to inform key directions and content of strategy
		2010	Strategy finalised and adopted
	Develop Zero Net Emissions Strategy	Dec 2009	Scoping report to Council completed
		Nov 2009	Zero Net Emissions Summit held
	Deliver actions listed in the Greenhouse Abatement Strategy	6 monthly reporting schedule	Number of actions implemented
	Promote recycling and waste service option available to residents	Annually	Increased community satisfaction with the overall performance of Council's waste management as measured through the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey
		Annually	Percentage of residential waste diverted from landfill increased
		Annually	Amount of domestic waste recycled
	Undertake a review of Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy	2010	Review completed
	Deliver behaviour change and environmental education	2009	Delivery of behaviour change and environmental education program as per 2009 published program
		2009	Increased attendance from previous year
		2010	Review of program completed
	Improve Environmentally Sustainability Design outcomes for Council buildings	2010	Establish data monitoring and reporting system
	Install new energy efficient (T5) streetlights to reduce greenhouse emissions	Dec 2010	T5 streetlight replacement program achieved
Review the Whittlesea Municipal Strategic Statement and Planning Scheme to give effect to social, economic, environmental, built form and land use objectives for the municipality	2012	Municipal Strategic Statement and Planning Scheme review completed	

Strategic Outcomes (What we want to achieve)	2009 – 2013 Community Plan Actions	Time (When will it happen?)	Measures (How will we know when it happens?)
6.3 The use of our rural land provides sustainable economic development	Finalise and implement the Green Wedge Management Plan to guide long term sustainable outcomes	2010	Plan finalised and implemented
	Improve land management practices in rural areas	Annually	Number of Rate rebate and works grants delivered
		Annually	Number of land management plans developed and implemented by rural property owners
	Pursue alternative uses of agricultural land for food production	2010 - 2011	External funding received to support project
	Develop a Chinese Herbal Medicine Commercialisation Plan	2009 - 2010	Plan developed and number of recommendations actioned

Part 2

About The Plan



About the Plan

For the purposes of complying with the Local Government Act 1989, the Whittlesea 2025 – Strategic Community Plan ‘Shaping our Future’ is the Council Plan.

Council acknowledges that working and planning together ensures we not only cater for our needs but allow this community to reach its potential.

While the process of developing this plan has been facilitated by Council, this is a plan for the whole Whittlesea community. There are many stakeholders who helped to shape this plan and who will play a part in implementing the work identified.

This Draft Plan is a four year plan for the period 2009 – 2013 that has been developed by the community for the community. It is a road map or an action plan which identifies future directions, strategic outcomes and measures to monitor success. It is the plan for how we get there – but to know where we are going, this plan also identifies a vision that describes where we want to be in the year 2025.

This plan complies with relevant Federal and State legislative requirements such as the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. Council commits to ensure everyone has the right to participate in and contribute to, our community and that all persons have equal rights in the provision of, and access to, Council services and facilities.

Reporting and Accountability

This plan will be reviewed annually by the community, and the key indicators will be reported on to allow the success of the plan’s implementation to be monitored.

An annual performance report will be made available in time to inform the annual review. The annual review must assess the plan against the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. Results of the annual performance plan shall inform future budget and corporate planning direction.

How the Plan was Developed

The development of ‘Shaping Our Future’ began when City of Whittlesea Mayor, Councillor Mary Laliou, officially launched the ‘Shape Your Community’ consultations at the Community Festival on 3 May, 2009.

The consultations were designed to develop a long term vision for the year 2025 and a shorter term action plan to work towards the vision (the Community Plan).

A diverse range of consultation methods were organised to maximise the participation of as many people, groups and organisations as possible.

A highlight of the consultations was the one and a half day ‘Shape Your Community’ forum held at the Epping Memorial Hall on 14 and 15 May 2009.

This brought together 80 people representing the diversity of our municipality. People came from many different groups, organisations and areas of interest including:

- Residents and community groups
- Environment and sustainability
- Health and wellbeing
- Business and economic development
- Government agencies
- Education and learning
- Art, culture and recreation
- Youth, and
- Disability

The aim was for Council to listen to the community, and for the community to listen to each other.

To compliment the forum, a host of other opportunities were organised. These included:

- A series of 3 hour consultation sessions (or ward meetings) held in different locations throughout the municipality.
- Special interest group meetings conducted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, the Multicultural Communities Council, the Sustainability Programs Advisory Committee and the Whittlesea Disability Network.
- Facilitated workshops with newly arrived migrant and refugee groups by Whittlesea Community Connections, a local community based organisation.
- The Postcards From the Future campaign, where children were asked to send a postcard and using words or pictures, describe the future City of Whittlesea they want to live in. A group of 9 young people were also supported to attend the one and a half day forum through a leadership program run by Council's Youth Team.

More than 650 people participated in various ways in the development of this Draft Community Plan. In all the consultations detailed above, participants were asked to describe the kind of future City of Whittlesea they want to see. In addition to the usual methods, submissions took diverse and innovative forms, including plays, singing, art and poetry.

All the information gathered from the community was collated into a report called the Unedited Outputs Report. This document contained all of the feedback and ideas that came directly from the community.

Working directly from the Unedited Outputs Report, the Draft Community Plan has been developed into the Guiding Principles, Futures Directions, Strategic Outcomes and Measurements of success that appear in this report.

As required by the Local Government Act, the Draft 'Shaping Our Future' plan must be available for consultation for a period of no less than 28 days. This consultation will be held during October 2009; this is the time where the community is asked for feedback. Following this consultation period any amendments can be made before the final plan is adopted and implemented.



Strategic Resource Plan

Council is required by the Local Government Act to prepare a Strategic Resource Plan covering both financial and non-financial resources, and including key financial indicators for at least the next four financial years to support the Shaping Our Future, Whittlesea 2025 Strategic Community Plan.

Strategic Resource Plan development

Council has prepared a Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) for the four years 2009/2010 to 2012/2013 as part of its ongoing financial planning to assist in adopting an annual budget within a longer term framework.

The SRP takes the strategic objectives and strategies as specified in the Council (Community) Plan and expresses them in financial terms for the next four years.

The financial aspects of the SRP are based on Council's 15 year Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP). The LTFP is updated through a process of consultation with Council's service providers and is used to set parameters for future revenue and expenditure as part of the rolling annual budget process.

The key objective in developing the SRP is financial sustainability in the medium to long term, whilst still achieving Council's strategic objectives as specified in the Community Plan. The key financial objectives that underpin the LTFP:

- Maintaining existing service levels
- A Capital expenditure program that is achievable and affordable
- Introduction of budget initiatives to enhance Council operations and efficiency
- Ensuring a net surplus result from operations
- Achieving a balanced budget on a cash basis.

In preparing the SRP, Council has also been mindful of the need to comply with the following principles of sound financial management as contained under Section 136 of the Local Government Act:

- Prudently manage financial risks relating to debt, assets and liabilities
- Provide reasonable stability in the level of rate burden
- Consider the financial effects of Council decisions on future generations
- Provide full, accurate and timely disclosure of financial information.

The SRP is updated annually through a rigorous process of consultation with Council service providers followed by a detailed sensitivity analysis to achieve the key financial objectives.

The City of Whittlesea is projecting a positive operating result and a strong balance sheet for each year of the 2009-2013 Community Plan. The strong financial position established over a number of years is a reflection of sound financial management, rigorous cost control and the commitment to financial sustainability.

Historically Council has generated a mix of small operating surplus/deficits and has used borrowings to fund only income-generating infrastructure projects or one-off significant expense burdens.

Borrowings remain a funding option for Council considering its moderate level of loan liability and the continuing growth in the rates base to meet on-going debt servicing costs.

The City's overall financial position is strong, however its budgetary position is impacted by a number of external influencing factors. Statutory fees and charges set by the State Government have been subject to minimal or no change for several years and have not kept pace with CPI. Combined with cost increases for waste management, the Municipal Fire Levy, public lighting and maintenance, insurances, transport costs and the additional challenges of the Global Financial Crisis, the impact on the operating budget is significant.

Overlaying all of these expenditures and general operating cost is the population growth the municipality is experiencing and the associated increased service delivery and infrastructure requirements. The forecast growth in the population for 2009-2010 is 4.9% and thereafter increasing by 4.0% annually.

The City's strong financial position throughout 2009-2013 ensures a sustainable financial future for Council and the capacity to deliver the objectives and strategies of the Community Plan and Strategic Resource Plan.

The forward financial strategy is built upon maintaining Council's existing assets by using depreciation allowances to maintain and upgrade all physical assets such as roads, drains, footpaths, parks, buildings and information technology assets. General rates are assessed to increase by 4.7% over the last three years of the Strategic Resource Plan plus a 2% factor per annum has been included for rates growth.

Generation of operating surpluses over the four years of the Community Plan provides a key source of funding for growth and new initiatives.

Council also plans to use some debt funding during the four years as part of its financial strategy. The borrowing level is planned to increase from \$22.7M to \$45.8M at the end of 2013 in a period where Council forecasts an extensive \$180.3M capital works program. During this four year period, Council's cash position is expected to be maintained.

Council's capital works program over the period 2009/2010 to 2012/2013 averages a significant annual expenditure of approximately \$45M and includes a number of major projects such as Thomastown Recreation Aquatic Centre upgrade, sporting pavilion upgrades, new community activity centres in the growth areas, road construction and safety improvements, bicycle facilities, disability access and floodlighting of existing sports grounds.

Council investment reserves will continue to grow over the four year period by \$3.7M.

The Strategic Resource Plan 2009-2013 shows the City of Whittlesea will retain its strong balance sheet ensuring a sustainable future for Council.

The strong financial position enables Council to maintain its current levels of service to the community in all areas and also provides funding for new community and organisational initiatives in line with the Community Plan.



City of Whittlesea

Budgeted Standard Income Statement
For the four years ending 30 June 2013

	Forecast	Budget	Strategic Resource Plan		
	Actual		Projections		
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue					
Rates charges	70,163	76,146	80,732	86,299	92,189
Statutory fees and fines	4,907	4,993	5,368	5,412	5,635
User fees	6,256	6,348	7,729	8,169	8,693
Contributions - cash	8,265	6,591	6,723	6,824	6,926
Grants - capital	3,704	6,816	3,576	3,506	4,112
Grants - operating	16,988	17,075	17,587	17,917	18,455
Reimbursements	639	677	657	707	691
Other revenue	7,666	6,576	6,937	7,059	7,176
Total revenues	118,588	125,222	129,309	135,893	143,877
Expenses					
Employee costs	37,957	42,930	43,010	45,266	47,564
Materials and services	47,805	46,988	49,232	53,124	56,863
Depreciation and amortisation	19,000	20,000	21,300	22,685	23,000
Other expenses	9,180	9,993	10,364	10,975	11,620
Finance costs	925	2,279	2,261	2,858	3,401
Total expenses	114,867	122,190	126,167	134,908	142,448
Net gain (loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	273	316	332	397	338
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	3,994	3,348	3,474	1,382	1,767
Contributions - non-monetary assets	120,000	120,000	122,000	125,000	128,000
Surplus (deficit) for the period	123,994	123,348	125,474	126,382	129,767

City of Whittlesea

Budgeted Standard Capital Works Statement

For the four years ending 30 June 2013

	Forecast	Budget	Strategic Resource Plan		
	Actual		Projections		
	2008/09		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital Works Areas					
Roads	13,504	13,751	11,158	9,803	12,106
Drains	299	100	50	50	50
Open space	14,800	13,029	10,278	6,676	6,419
Buildings	16,610	41,182	12,990	18,925	10,540
IT & Plant	2,953	3,060	3,078	3,750	3,302
Feasibility studies	34	-	-	-	-
Total capital works	48,200	71,122	37,554	39,204	32,417
Represented by:					
New assets	28,637	52,800	21,517	22,388	14,652
Asset renewal	9,381	9,305	10,424	13,313	13,376
Upgrade/expansion	10,182	9,017	5,613	3,503	4,389
Total capital works	48,200	71,122	37,554	39,204	32,417



City of Whittlesea

Budgeted Statement of Investment Reserves

For the four years ending 30 June 2013

	Forecast	Budget 2009/10	Strategic Resource Plan		
	Actual		Projections		
	2008/09		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Statutory					
Developer contributions (community facilities)	8,452	8,042	6,199	3,482	4,360
Community infrastructure levy	1,154	1,404	1,654	1,904	1,904
Net gain compensation	505	515	500	500	500
Developer contributions (open space)	880	995	1,010	1,010	1,010
Planning permits drainage	548	652	802	802	802
Non standard street lighting	1,151	1,311	1,124	1,441	1,571
Car parking	28	28	28	28	28
Total statutory reserves	12,718	12,947	11,317	9,167	10,175
Discretionary					
Tip replacement	6,936	11,732	13,103	14,534	15,993
Unspent new works (net)	7,625	0	-	-	-
Land banking reserve	5,621	5,723	7,123	8,475	8,625
Plant replacement	4,118	4,105	3,920	3,253	3,006
Computer replacement	0	143	293	443	593
Total discretionary reserves	24,300	21,703	24,439	26,705	28,217
Total reserves	37,018	34,650	35,756	35,872	38,392

Copies of the Adopted Budget can be viewed online:
www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Or are available for inspection at the following locations:

Council Offices

25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang
VIC 3752
(Melway 183 A10)

Edge Youth Services

Shop MM1,
Westfield Shopping Centre
415 McDonalds Road
South Morang VIC 3752
(Melway 183 B11)

Whittlesea Courthouse

Visitor Information Centre,
Corner Beech and Church Streets,
Whittlesea VIC 3757
(Melway 246 G8)

Lalor Library

2A May Road
Lalor VIC 3075
(Melway 8 K5)

Thomastown Library

52 Main Street
Thomastown VIC 3074
(Melway 8 G7)

Mill Park Library

394 Plenty Road
Mill Park VIC 3082
(Melway 10 C2)

Mobile Library

Your Council

The Council consists of nine Councillors, who have been elected in three Wards - each with three Councillors.

The Councillors were elected in November 2008 and the current Council term will be completed in November 2012 when Council elections again take place.

East Ward

Cr Mary Laliros MAYOR

Phone: 0400 132 117

Fax: 9404 2264

Email: mayor@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Cr Sam Alessi

Phone: 0417 392 578

Fax: 9436 0027

Email: sam.alessi@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Cr Norm Kelly

Phone: 0417 158 996

Email: norm.kelly@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

North Ward

Cr John Fry

Phone: 0417 391 514

Fax: 9464 6152

Email: john.fry@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Cr Rex Griffin

Phone: 0400 834 150

Fax: 8405 3218

Email: rex.griffin@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Cr Pam McLeod

Phone: 0419 516 540

Fax: 9401 5456

Email: pam.mcleod@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

West Ward

Cr Stevan Kozmevski

Phone: 0417 390 854

Fax: 9464 6157

Email: stevan.kozmevski@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Cr Frank Merlino

Phone: 0417 391 052

Fax: 9464 6175

Email: frank.merlino@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Cr Kris Pavlidis

Phone: 0407 689 032

Fax: 9464 5789

Email: kris.pavlidis@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Community Profile

The City of Whittlesea is located 20km north of Melbourne's CBD. Covering 490 square km, it is a large municipality containing established urban, rapidly developing new (or growth) and rural areas.

The city includes the major rural centre of Whittlesea, the rural localities of Beveridge, Donnybrook, Eden Park, Humevale, Kinglake West, Wollert, Woodstock and Yan Yean and the established or developing suburbs of Bundoora, Doreen, Epping, Lalor, Mernda, Mill Park, South Morang and Thomastown.

The Wurundjeri Willam people were the original inhabitants of this area and the traditional owners of this land. Today, the City of Whittlesea has the fourth highest Indigenous population in metropolitan Melbourne.

Our Name

The City of Whittlesea was named after the town of Whittlesey, in Cambridgeshire, England. Many place names (such as Bundoora, Yan Yean, Wollert, Wallan and Mernda) were inspired by Wurundjeri culture and traditions

Our Population

In 2009, the City of Whittlesea has a population around 148,000 people.

Our Diversity

The City of Whittlesea is a diverse community. With migrants from more than 50 countries. 54 percent of residents come from a non-English speaking background (double the Victorian average) and 45% normally speak a language other than English at home. The most common languages used other than English are Italian, Macedonian, Greek, Arabic and Vietnamese.

New and emerging communities in Whittlesea include people born in Vietnam, Lebanon, India, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, the Philippines and Iraq.

Our Population Growth

The City of Whittlesea has been growing steadily since World War II.

Endorsed by the State Government as a growth area of metropolitan significance, an average of around 2,500 new households per year are expected to be established within the municipality between 2009 and 2013. The City of Whittlesea is amongst the fastest growing areas within metropolitan Melbourne. More than half of the people moving into the new growth areas are existing residents of the municipality.

The city's population is expected to exceed 250,000 by 2030. Growth will be concentrated in the developing areas of Mernda-Doreen, South Morang and Epping North, while small population declines are expected to occur within established suburbs such as Mill Park and Thomastown between 2009 and 2013.

Further Information

More information about the Whittlesea community is available.

Contact Council on 9217 2170, visit our website at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au or email info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

If you would like a copy in your language or to discuss the Whittlesea 2025 Strategic Community Plan, please contact:

Felicity Leahy
Community Plan Coordinator
9217 2474
communityplan@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Arabic

وإذا رغبت في الحصول على نسخة باللغة العربية أو مناقشة مسودة خطة ويتلبي المجتمعية الإستراتيجية لعام 2025، يرجى الاتصال بـ:

Felicity Leahy فيليسي ليهي
منسقة الخطة المجتمعية

على الرقم: 9217 2474

بريد إلكتروني: communityplan@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Chinese

如果希望得到中文版本，或希望討論《Whittlesea 2025策略社區計劃》草案，請聯絡：

Felicity Leahy
社區計劃協調員
9217 2474
communityplan@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Croatian

Ako želite primjerak na hrvatskom jeziku ili ako želite porazgovarati o Nacrtu strateškog plana zajednice Whittlesea do 2025. godine (Whittlesea 2025 Strategic Community Plan), molimo kontaktirajte:

Felicity Leahy
Kordinator plana zajednice
9217 2474
communityplan@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Greek

Αν θέλετε ένα αντίγραφο στα Ελληνικά ή για να συζητήσετε το Προσχέδιο του Στρατηγικού Κοινωνικού Προγράμματος Whittlesea 2025, παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με:

Felicity Leahy
Συντονίστρια Κοινωνικού Προγράμματος
9217 2474
communityplan@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Italian

Se volete una copia del piano in italiano o se volete discutere la Bozza del Piano Strategico Comunitario Whittlesea 2025, prendete contatto con:

Felicity Leahy
Community Plan Coordinator
9217 2474
communityplan@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Macedonian

Ако сакате примерок на македонски или сакате да дискутирате за Whittlesea 2025 Strategic Community Plan, ве молиме јавете се на:

Felicity Leahy
Community Plan Coordinator
9217 2474
communityplan@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Turkish

Türkçe bir örnek edinmek istemeniz ya da Whittlesea 2025 Stratejik Toplum Plan Taslağı konusunda görüşmek istemeniz durumunda, lütfen aşağıda belirtilen ofis ya da kişiyle ilişki kurun:

Felicity Leahy
Community Plan Coordinator (Toplum Plan Koordinatörü)
9217 2474
communityplan@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Vietnamese

Nếu quý vị muốn có một bản sao bằng tiếng Việt hay muốn thảo luận về bản Dự Thảo Kế Hoạch Chiến Lược Cộng Đồng Năm 2025 của Whittlesea, xin liên lạc:

Felicity Leahy
Điều Phối Viên Về Kế Hoạch Cộng Đồng
9217 2474
communityplan@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



These are some of the 'Postcards from the Future' that our school children wrote