

Draft Annual Plan 2025/26

At the Council Meeting held on 22 July 2025, Moonee Valley City Council resolved to endorse the Draft Annual Plan 2025/26 with some amendments.

Therefore, the Draft Annual Plan 2025/26 should be read in conjunction with the following amendments.

Strategies:

1. Reword Strategy 5.2 to read *'Continue to recognise the value of volunteering in our community, and support volunteers across the municipality by building capacity and connections, while increasing and enhancing volunteering opportunities at Council.'*
2. Remove the word 'considering' from Strategy 13.2 to read: *'Review and continue to deliver programs through the Community Climate Emission Reduction Reserve, including targets for solar uptake'.*
3. Reword Strategy 14.2 to read *'Use flood modelling to mitigate the impacts of climate change on drainage networks, through potential planning changes and capital works delivery'.*
4. Include a reference to the Maribyrnong River in Strategy 14.4 to read *'Continue to support the health of waterways, including by working with partners to; support their efforts to naturalise the Moonee Ponds Creek, advocate for the naturalisation of Steele Creek and lead Maribyrnong River improvements'.*
5. Add reference to homelessness in Strategy 16.1 to read *'Prepare initiatives to ensure that residential development is directed to appropriate locations to meet our future population growth and housing needs, focusing on activity centres and areas with good access to public transport and working within Council's role to increase affordable and social housing and address homelessness'.*
6. Add a reference to cost of living relief in Strategy 23.3 to read *'Refresh and implement Council's Financial Management Policy, including responding to economic challenges and cost of living pressures'.*

Initiatives:

1. Add a reference to pedestrian crossings in Year One Initiative 10.2.1 to read *'Continue advocacy for safer intersections and pedestrian crossings on Mount Alexander Road'*.
2. Add a Year One Initiative for Strategy 13.1 to read *'Work with Maribyrnong City Council, emergency services and Melbourne Water on community preparedness initiatives and support Melbourne Water and stakeholders on the Maribyrnong River Catchment Flood Mitigation Study'*.
3. Add a Year One Initiative 13.2.3 to read *'Report to Council with a methodology and plan to implement an exemption from planning permit requirements for visible solar energy systems in the Heritage Overlay to facilitate greater provision of on-site renewable energy in heritage places, where appropriate.'*

Balit, yingore, munda ba gadhabith marra

‘Healthy, vibrant and welcoming community’

Annual Plan

2025-26



Annual Plan 2025-26

About this plan

The Council Plan (incorporating the Health Plan and the Disability Action Plan) 2025-29 sets out the strategies and key initiatives to achieve Council's goals over the next four years.

The Annual Plan supplements the Council Plan and details the specific initiatives scheduled for delivery in 2025–26.

Integrated Plans

Throughout this Plan, strategies and initiatives that support the Health Plan or Disability Action Plan are marked with an icon, along with Council's role in their delivery.

A black cross on a white circle highlights items under the Health Plan, and a black circle with disability symbols highlight items under the Disability Action Plan.










Communities of focus

We are committed to equity, inclusion, fairness and respect, and we know that not everyone can participate in community life equally. Seven groups have been identified as having a higher likelihood of facing barriers that may impact their health, wellbeing and social outcomes.

Council will work to support equitable outcomes for people in seven 'communities of focus', guided by plans, implementation plans and frameworks associated with each community of focus.

These strategic documents are referenced in the Annual Plan Strategies and Initiatives, highlighted using the icons that appear in the table below:

Icon	Community of focus
	First Peoples This includes Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander peoples.
	Culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) people This includes people who face marginalisation due to their race, cultural background or religion.
	People living with disability, mental illness, chronic illness or who are neurodivergent, and their carers
	People who identify as LGBTIQ+ This stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer or Questioning, Asexual, as well as non-binary, ace, gender diverse and any other gender and sexual identities that are not heterosexual or cisgender.
	People experiencing, or at risk of, family violence
	People without stable housing, or experiencing housing stress
	People living on low and/or insufficient incomes












Roles of Council





Council plays a range of roles to ensure the Council Plan is delivered. These include:

Role of council	Description
Advocate	Promotes the interests of the community to other decision-making organisations, e.g. state and federal governments.
Connector	Encourages others to be involved, collaborates and brings interested parties together to progress identified issues.
Funder	Funds other organisations to carry out services, for example through grants and service delivery contracts.
Monitor	Gathers information on activities and checks against progress, to inform decision-making and improvement.
Partner	Funds and carries out services in formal partnership with other organisations.
Provider	Designs and delivers services.
Regulator	Enforces and directs activities as required under relevant legislation.
Responder	Acts to minimise harm to people, property and the environment, often coordinating with or referring to other organisations.



Fair (Qeentee Boordup)

Strategic Objectives	Strategy	Related Plan	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Year One 2025-26 initiative
1. A city that respects and values First Peoples, their knowledge, history and culture	1.1 Develop a Moonee Valley Self-Determination Plan, informed by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, Aboriginal community and Marra Wirrigirri Advisory Committee. Lead service: Reconciliation Council's role: Provider; partner; connector		•	•			1.1.1 Commence development of a Self-Determination Plan.
	2.1 Develop and deliver initiatives for LGBTIQ+ inclusion, health and safety in consultation with the community. Lead service: Community development Council's role: Provider; partner; connector	 	•				2.1.1 Develop an implementation plan that helps to build a more inclusive community with the LGBTIQ+ community and their allies.
2. A city that embraces diversity and social cohesion	2.2 Develop and implement a Social Cohesion Framework that promotes community development and connections, champions inclusion and cultivates a strong sense of belonging to guide Council's programs, events, days of recognition and communications. Lead service: Community development Council's role: Provider; connector	   	•	•			2.2.1 Develop a Social Cohesion Framework.
	3.1 Develop and implement the Family and Children's Services Action Plan, to progress priority initiatives. Lead service: Children and family services Council's role: Provider; partner		•				3.1.1 Develop the Family and Children's Services Action Plan.
	3.2 Develop and implement a framework to support our community to age well in Moonee Valley. Lead service: Home care and community support Council's role: Provider		•				3.2.1 Develop an ageing well in Moonee Valley framework.
	3.3 Deliver initiatives that help to build a more inclusive community in consultation with people living with disability and their carers so that they can lead healthy and active lives, including by building workforce capacity in service delivery. Lead service: Community development Council's role: Provider; partner; connector		•				3.3.1 Develop an implementation plan that helps to build a more inclusive community in consultation with people living with disability and their carers.
	3.4 Strengthen youth engagement and participation, good mental health, leadership and community recognition. Lead service: Youth development Council's role: Provider; partner; connector		•	•			3.4.1 Deliver youth-led programs and events.

Strategic Objectives	Strategy	Related Plan	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Year One 2025-26 initiative
4: A city committed to community safety, health and wellbeing	4.1 Prepare a gambling harm reduction policy to guide Council decision-making. Lead service: Public health and safety Council's role: Provider; advocate			•			No initiative in 2025-26.
	4.2 Contribute to the prevention of, and response to, gender-based violence and family violence, implementing actions that align with Council's Prevention of Family Violence Policy and Statement of Commitment and that support victim-survivors in their recovery and healing. Lead service: Public health and safety Council's role: Partner; advocate	 	•				4.2.1 Develop an implementation plan that identifies initiatives that contribute to the prevention of gender-based violence and family violence and that support victim-survivors in their recovery and healing.
	4.3 Support the opening of a new headspace for Moonee Valley and continue to advocate for local, accessible mental health services for people of all ages. Lead service: Public health and safety Council's role: Partner; advocate		•	•			4.3.1 Facilitate discussions with partners, including an information session for youth mental health service providers.

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Thriving (Bandingith)

Strategic Objectives	Strategy	Related Plan	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Year One 2025-26 initiative
5. A city with opportunities to learn and work, that values work in all its forms, including employment, entrepreneurship, volunteering and caring	<p>5.1 Encourage and expand use of our libraries through inclusive, accessible and flexible services, programs and collections that support learning, literacy, independence and skill development.</p> <p>Lead service: Libraries</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; connector</p>		•				<p>5.1.1 Complete the redevelopment of Ascot Vale Library.</p> <p>5.1.2 Develop and implement adult programming.</p>
	<p>5.2 Continue to recognise the value of volunteering in our community while increasing volunteering opportunities at Council, enhancing the experience of community members at every stage of their volunteering with Council and helping to explore networking opportunities to encourage volunteering connections across the municipality.</p> <p>Lead service: Our people</p> <p>Council's role: Partner; connector</p>			•			No initiative in 2025-26.
6. A city that supports business and responds to economic opportunities and challenges	<p>6.1 Prepare and implement an Economic Development Action Plan to progress priority initiatives.</p> <p>Lead service: Economic and business development</p> <p>Council's role: Partner; connector</p>		•				6.1.1 Complete the Economic Development Action Plan and commence implementation.
7. A city where everyone can be creative and have fun	<p>7.1 Deliver and refresh Igniting Creativity, Moonee Valley's arts and culture strategy, to progress priority initiatives.</p> <p>Lead service: Arts and culture</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; partner; funder</p>		•	•	•		7.1.1 Renew and expand public art, including murals.
8. A city with opportunities to keep everyone active through sport, leisure and recreation	<p>8.1 Prepare and implement a program for the provision and improvement of play and recreation facilities in open spaces across the city to support healthy outdoor activity, and progress major and minor park upgrades and park activations as outlined in the Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>Lead service: Parks, gardens and open space management</p> <p>Council's role: Provider</p>	 	•	•			8.1.1 Commence development of a program to provide and improve play and recreation facilities.
	<p>8.2 Continue to advocate for external funding and partnerships in order to deliver facilities for Buckley Park Bowls Club, indoor sports (highball) and a soccer hub.</p> <p>Lead service: Community facilities and property management</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; partner; advocate</p>		•				8.2.1 Consider projects in the review of Council's Advocacy Strategy, and explore public-private partnerships.
	<p>8.3 Progress the planning, development and affordable delivery of sporting infrastructure projects and programs to encourage participation and accommodate growth, in line with Council's strategic priorities and long-term capital works program.</p> <p>Lead service: Leisure, sports and recreation</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; partner</p>		•				<p>8.3.1 Deliver Bowes Ave netball courts.</p> <p>8.3.2 Present options for Queens Park Pool.</p>






Connected (Berbang)

Strategic Objectives	Strategy	Related Plan	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Year One 2025-26 initiative
9. A city that is walkable with safe streets, roads and footpaths that connect people	<p>9.1 Complete the Integrated Transport Strategy to improve the effectiveness of transport across the municipality, including active transport, public transport and road safety.</p> <p>Lead service: Traffic, transport, pedestrian and drainage network</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; partner; advocate</p>	 	•	•	•		9.1.1 Develop the Integrated Transport Strategy.
	<p>9.2 Expand safe walking and cycling routes and deliver traffic, pedestrian and cyclist safety improvements by planning, improving and promoting shared and cycling paths and walking infrastructure.</p> <p>Lead service: Traffic, transport, pedestrian and drainage network</p> <p>Council's role: Provider</p>	 	•	•	•	•	9.2.1 Progress Strathmore Secondary component of Moonee Ponds Creek Trail; deliver Local Area Traffic Management projects in Newmarket and Airport West.
	<p>9.3 Improve traffic, pedestrian and cyclist safety by identifying safety issues around schools, undertaking behaviour change programs and delivering innovative solutions through the Better Moves Around Schools program.</p> <p>Lead service: Traffic, transport, pedestrian and drainage network</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; monitor</p>	 	•	•	•	•	9.3.1 Roll out Better Moves Around Schools in the Niddrie and Essendon neighbourhood school precincts.
10. A city where modern, low-emission and reliable transport is the easy option	<p>10.1 Support the community's use of sustainable transport through the expansion of electric vehicle charging stations across the municipality.</p> <p>Lead service: Traffic, transport, pedestrian and drainage network</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; partner; funder; monitor</p>		•	•			10.1.1 Progress the implementation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the municipality, prioritising sporting precincts, commercial precincts, and community facilities.
	<p>10.2 Work with stakeholders to advocate for improved public transport and pedestrian safety on non-Council roads.</p> <p>Lead service: Strategic land use planning</p> <p>Council's role: Partner; advocate</p>		•	•			10.2.1 Continue advocacy for safer intersections on Mount Alexander Road.
	<p>10.3 Transition Council facilities, fleet and equipment to more efficient energy sources to reduce environmental impact.</p> <p>Lead service: Community facilities and property management</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; monitor</p>		•	•	•	•	10.3.1 Progress the transition of Council's passenger vehicle fleet from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles, significantly reducing carbon emissions.
11. A city in conversation with our diverse community	<p>11.1 Provide accessible print and online communications, including translated materials and interpreters, and enhance customer experience through continuous improvement work to Council's website.</p> <p>Lead service: Community information, education, advocacy and engagement</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; partner; funder</p>		•	•	•	•	<p>11.1.1 Provide targeted accessible communication through Valley View and What's On.</p> <p>11.1.2 Continue the website project with the development and implementation of stages 2 and 3.</p>
12. A city that is enabled and confident in purposefully using technology to improve everyday life	<p>12.1 Improve the use of technology applications to enhance service delivery and assist Council with future planning.</p> <p>Lead service: Our systems and knowledge</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; monitor</p>		•	•	•		12.1.1 Deploy technology to understand utilisation/ effectiveness of assets and collate data to assist in decision-making.



Green (Wunwarren)



Strategic Objectives	Strategy	Related Plan	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Year One 2025-26 initiative
13. A city that is zero carbon, cool and climate-safe	13.1 Continue to build community resilience and preparedness to extreme heat and flooding through planning, advocacy and education initiatives. Lead service: Public health and safety Council's role: Provider; partner; funder; advocate			●			No initiative in 2025-26.
	13.2 Review and continue to deliver programs through the Community Climate Emission Reduction Reserve, including considering targets for solar uptake. Lead service: Environment and sustainability Council's role: Provider; connector; monitor		●	●			13.2.1 Commence delivery of the Let's Go Zero sustainable business initiative to support local businesses to reduce their carbon emissions. 13.2.2 Establish digital and face-to-face opportunities to engage and communicate with the community on sustainable living.
	13.3 Increase natural cooling of our homes, spaces and buildings across the city through increasing plantings and public and private tree canopy cover. Lead service: Parks, gardens and open space management Council's role: Provider; monitor		●	●	●	●	13.3.1 Continue initiatives to encourage tree planting and protection on private land such as the One, Two, Tree campaign and plant giveaways at community events.
14: A city that has increased biodiversity and is water-sensitive	14.1 Design and construct stormwater harvesting infrastructure to deliver on the Maribyrnong Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan. Lead service: Parks, gardens and open space management Council's role: Provider; partner		●	●	●		14.1.1 Develop the design for Buckley Park stormwater harvesting infrastructure.
	14.2 Mitigate the impacts of climate change on drainage networks through flood modelling, potential planning changes and capital works delivery. Lead service: Traffic, transport, pedestrian and drainage network Council's role: Provider		●	●	●	●	14.2.1 Collaborate with Melbourne Water around potential planning for Scheme changes.
	14.3 Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological health throughout the municipality by increasing the diversity of landscapes, habitat connectivity and species used in plantings, and by undertaking pest plant and animal management. Lead service: Parks, gardens and open space management Council's role: Provider		●	●	●	●	14.3.1 Implement National Tree Day and revegetation works.
	14.4 Continue to support the naturalisation of waterways, including by working with partners to support their efforts to naturalise the Moonee Ponds Creek and advocating for the naturalisation of Steele Creek. Lead service: Parks, gardens and open space management Council's role: Partner; provider; advocate		●		●		14.4.1 Work with Melbourne Water to support efforts to continue the naturalisation of the Moonee Ponds Creek.



Strategic Objectives	Strategy	Related Plan	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Year One 2025-26 initiative
15: A city that repurposes and recycles to minimise waste	15.1 Reduce waste by cutting recycling contamination, continuing resident and business education campaigns and engagement and enhancing circular economy initiatives. Lead service: Waste and recycling Council's role: Provider; connector; monitor; responder		●		●		15.1.1 Undertake textile waste education to divert waste from landfill. 15.1.2 Improve pedestrian and bicycle access at Transfer Station.
	15.2 Investigate alternative ways to provide recycling services to a diverse range of housing types, including through drop-off points for glass, recycling and FOGO. Lead service: Waste and recycling Council's role: Provider			●			No initiative in 2025-26.

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Beautiful (Nga-ango Gunga)

Strategic Objectives	Strategy	Related Plan	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Year One 2025-26 initiative
16. A city with diverse, affordable, secure and well-planned housing for all	16.1 Prepare initiatives to ensure that residential development is directed to appropriate locations to meet our future population growth, focusing on activity centres and areas with good access to public transport and working within Council's role to increase affordable and social housing. Lead service: Strategic land use planning Council's role: Provider		●	●		●	16.1.1 Progress development of the Housing Strategy.
	17.1 Undertake planning and implement initiatives to conserve and enhance heritage places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value. Lead service: Strategic land use planning Council's role: Provider		●	●	●		17.1.1 Develop a report outlining options to reduce financial and environmental impacts of heritage overlays to residents.
17. A city where our history and identity help shape the future	17.2 Establish a vision for the future of the Maribyrnong River and surrounds by completing the Maribyrnong River Cultural Precinct Plan, incorporating the recommendations of a Cultural Values Assessment developed by Traditional Owners. Lead service: Community facilities and property management Council's role: Provider; partner; connector		●	●			17.2.1 Progress a Cultural Values Assessment.
	18.1 Ensure that the planning of social infrastructure incorporates principles of design excellence and innovation and meets the community's changing needs. Lead service: Community facilities and property management Council's role: Provider			●	●		No initiative in 2025-26.
	18.2 In collaboration with the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment, continue to advocate for elevated Environmentally Sustainable Design targets for new development to support a Zero Carbon Planning Scheme. Lead service: Community information, education, advocacy and engagement Council's role: Partner; advocate		●	●	●	●	18.2.1 Undertake advocacy for elevated Environmentally Sustainable Design targets.
18. A city of innovative and sustainable design	19.1 Continue to implement the Open Space Strategy by preparing and implementing an open space acquisition framework for increasing open space in priority areas (Flemington, Keilor Road/Essendon North, Essendon and Moonee Ponds). Lead service: Parks, gardens and open space management Council's role: Provider			●	●		No initiative in 2025-26.
	19.2 Develop and deliver a program for the implementation of open space master plans with clear criteria for prioritisation. Lead service: Parks, gardens and open space management Council's role: Provider			●			No initiative in 2025-26.
19. A city with green, welcoming and well-presented spaces and streetscapes							

Strategic Objectives	Strategy	Related Plan	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Year One 2025-26 initiative
20. A city with infrastructure that supports the needs of our changing community	<p>19.3 Provide facilities and places for exercising dogs safely and in harmony with other users of open space and biodiversity.</p> <p>Lead service: Parks, gardens and open space management</p> <p>Council's role: Provider</p>		●	●			19.3.1 Upgrade the dog off leash park in Travancore.
	<p>19.4 Develop and implement a program for enhancing streetscapes.</p> <p>Lead service: Parks, gardens and open space management</p> <p>Council's role: Provider</p>		●	●			19.4.1 Develop a streetscaping program.
	<p>19.5 Develop and implement a Moonee Valley Placemaking Framework, giving consideration to safety, lighting, cleanliness and inclusive urban design.</p> <p>Lead service: Community facilities and property management</p> <p>Council's role: Provider</p>		●	●	●		19.5.1 Implement regular graffiti removal program and enhanced street sweeping.
	<p>20.1 Continue to implement the Public Toilet Strategy.</p> <p>Lead service: Parks, gardens and open space management</p> <p>Council's role: Provider</p>		●	●	●	●	20.1.1 Design Queens Park. 20.1.2 Design and construct Etzel Reserve.
	<p>20.2 Prepare and implement a Property Strategy to ensure that Council's property portfolio can support the future needs of the community.</p> <p>Lead service: Community facilities and property management</p> <p>Council's role: Provider</p>		●	●	●	●	20.2.1 Adopt Property Strategy; explore divestment opportunities and renew leases where appropriate.
	<p>20.3 Plan to address community infrastructure needs in Niddrie and Essendon North, including by advancing planning and advocating for external funding and partnerships to deliver Niddrie Library.</p> <p>Lead service: Community facilities and property management</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; partner; advocate</p>			●	●		<i>No initiative in 2025-26.</i>
	<p>20.4 Continue the Building Blocks Partnership with the Victorian Government to deliver kindergarten redevelopments and maternal child health suites at Airport West, Ascot Vale (Coronation) and Keilor East (Lincolnville and Milleara Gardens).</p> <p>Lead service: Children and family services</p> <p>Council's role: Provider; partner</p>		●	●	●	●	20.4.1 Complete construction of Lincolnville Kindergarten and progress construction of Coronation Kindergarten.



Trusted (Dharrndun)

Strategic Objectives	Strategy	Related Plan	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Year One 2025-26 initiative
21. A city where people of all abilities, ages and backgrounds can engage, participate and influence	21.1 Undertake engagement processes to provide opportunities for participatory decision-making for under-represented groups, including Council's Community Advisory Panels. Lead service: Community information, education, advocacy and engagement Council's role: Advocate			●			No initiative in 2025-26.
	21.2 Develop a plan to improve communication with all residents and stakeholders. Lead service: Community information, education, advocacy and engagement Council's role: Provider		●				21.2.1 Conduct a review to identify opportunities to improve communication coming from core Council services (including planning, local laws and customer enquiries).
22. A city with confidence in local decision-making	22.1 Increase community understanding of Council processes, roles and responsibilities and share our progress delivering priorities, outcomes and services. Lead service: Civic Services Council's role: Provider			●	●	●	No initiative in 2025-26.
	22.2 Explore opportunities to facilitate increased engagement between elected Council representatives and the community. Lead service: Community information, education, advocacy and engagement Council's role: Connector			●			No initiative in 2025-26.
23. A city that is environmentally, socially and financially responsible and prepared	23.1 Develop and implement a new Moonee Valley Advocacy Strategy to guide Council's efforts to attract policy change and resources, aligned with Council's capital works program and the Council Plan and Health Plan. Lead service: Community information, education, advocacy and engagement Council's role: Provider; advocate		●				23.1.1 Develop a new Moonee Valley Advocacy Strategy.
	23.2 Continue to refine the way capital works projects are assessed and prioritised. Lead service: Our Finances Council's role: Provider		●		●		23.2.1 Develop a policy to inform prioritisation of Council's capital works planning and investment.
	23.3 Refresh and implement Council's Financial Management Policy. Lead service: Our Finances Council's role: Provider		●			●	23.3.1 Refresh Council's Financial Management Policy.