



# CEO Report

Issue 123, October 2025

Wominjeka. Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



## City of Port Phillip

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the environment  
before printing.

Welcome to the October CEO report  
– an update on our progress  
towards the Plan for Port Phillip  
2025–2035.

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# In October...



We received the Order of Timor-Leste Medal, celebrating 25 years of community partnership with Suai.



We upgraded Sol Green Reserve and St Vincent Gardens which now feature inclusive play spaces, Indigenous art and upgraded amenities.



We entered a new four-year contract with Cleanaway to manage waste and recycling services for our city.



We welcomed 96 students to tour St Kilda Town Hall, engaging with Councillors and learning about local leadership.

Project portfolio performance

# 94%

projects on track  
(incl. those at risk)



We hosted a full-day celebration of active transport, wellness and community connection at the South Melbourne Market for Ride2Work day.



## Strategic direction 1

# A healthy and connected community

## Highlights

### Aged Care Reforms Information Hub at St Kilda Library

On Wednesday 22 October 2025, we hosted a community information session at St Kilda Library in partnership with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the Australian Library and Information Association. The session helped older residents, and their families understand changes to aged care, including the transition to the Support at Home Program.

More than 40 people attended, showing strong community interest in aged care reform. Patricia Sparrow, CEO of COTA Australia, shared insights on national advocacy and the reform agenda. Kate and Rebecca from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing outlined upcoming changes, while Daniel from Services Australia explained practical support available through My Aged Care.

Our Community Connectors, Liam and Helen, supported the Q&A segment and provided one-on-one assistance after the presentation. Attendees also collected printed materials promoting community connection and access to aged care services.

### Shocktober at South Melbourne Market

Shocktober is Ambulance Victoria's month-long campaign in October that promotes learning cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

During the month, we partnered with Ambulance Victoria for a pop-up at the South Melbourne Market. The activation gave shoppers and traders practical skills to help improve survival rates for people experiencing cardiac arrest. The Market proved to be an ideal location thanks to its high foot traffic and engaged local

community, and the event was extremely popular.



Ambulance Victoria at South Melbourne Market

### Supported Playgroup at St Kilda Botanical Gardens

In October, we delivered the first outdoor Supported Playgroup in St Kilda Botanical Gardens. This new initiative gives parents the chance to connect with their children in

nature while continuing the Supported Playgroup's small talk program. Facilitators role model outdoor play and support parents to build confidence, highlighting the benefits of nature play for child development.

Outdoor Supported Playgroup will run throughout Term 4 with a rolling intake. The first session attracted 12 families, showing strong interest in this new approach. A consistent 'walking bus' helped reduce barriers to attendance and created healthy habits and routines for families and children.,



**Weekly Outdoor Sessions for Kids**

## **Friends of Suai Celebrate 25 Years of Partnership**

In October, our Councillors were honoured with the Order of Timor-Leste Medal, presented by Alberto Barros and Amelia Amaral from Centro Comunidade Covalima. Awarded by East Timor's President José Ramos-Horta, the medal recognises 26

Australian Friendship Groups, including Friends of Suai/Covalima, a Council initiative, marking 25 years of partnership between Port Phillip and Covalima.



Alberto and Amelia joined us for a week of celebrations, including:

- An exhibition at Emerald Hill Library
- A fundraising dinner with past and present Councillors
- A tour of South Melbourne Market
- A meeting with our Gender Equity Officer

Friends of Suai/Covalima provide mentoring, scholarships and support for reforestation projects, strengthening ties between our communities. The visit was a resounding success, fostering new relationships and bringing valuable knowledge back to Suai.

# Major initiatives 2025/26

Council delivers multiple projects that contribute to **a healthy and connected community**. Following are the major initiatives (priority projects) we are starting, continuing or completing in 2025/26.

Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>Affordable Housing and Homelessness</b> Delivery of the final year of the In Our Backyard implementation project (previous housing strategy) and a funding allocation for Council's new Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy.	Delivery		Stage 2 public exhibition of the draft strategy and consultation regarding implementation priorities was launched on 6 October closing 2 November. \$1.6M budget is inclusive of \$600K 25/26 and \$1M deferral to fund final instalment of Wellington Street Common Ground (planned opening late 2026). Project funding has also been allocated by Council to St Kilda Community Housing (\$250K for first 2 years pending additional funding from another third party e.g. State Government) and Bridgelt (\$15K for two years). Other funding will be decided by Council at in 2025/26. Strategy planned for Council endorsement on 10 December 2026.	Apr 2025	1,600	1,600
<b>Children's Facilities Upgrade Program</b> Redevelop six Council and community-managed childcare centres across the municipality to improve condition and functionality.	Planning & Design/ Delivery		On Track projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarendon Street: Submission for building permit being prepared.</li> <li>• Elwood: Submission for building permit being prepared.</li> <li>• The Avenue: Tenders for construction are being evaluated.</li> <li>• Lilian Cannam: Progressing detailed construction drawings.</li> <li>• North St Kilda: Currently in Town Planning.</li> </ul> At Risk projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eildon Road: Tenders for works have been evaluated, delays with Building Permit application.</li> </ul>	Jun 2026	3,198	3,014

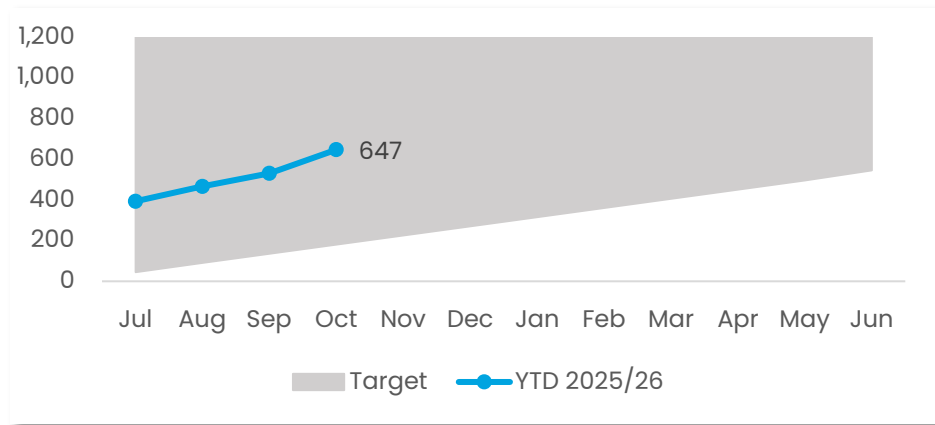


Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>Community Infrastructure Plan</b> Develop a municipal-wide Community Infrastructure Plan.	Project Initiation	●	Engagement commenced on 6 October 2025 closing on 2 November. A range of methods are being used to gather input from community members and stakeholders, ensuring diverse voices are heard. The engagement data will be analysed alongside additional workshop input, planned for late November 2025, to inform the draft Community Infrastructure Plan which is being drafted by SGS consultants.	Jun 2026	60	60
<b>St Kilda Adventure Playground Upgrade</b> A multi-year project to plan and deliver upgrade works to St Kilda Adventure Playground.	Planning & Design	●	The project is on track. The playground tender documents are ready for release, in November 2026. The advertising for the Clubhouse Planning Permit has closed and the project team are reviewing and responding to feedback from the community.	Dec 2026	8,659	8,962

**Legend**      ● On Track/Complete      ◆ At Risk      ■ Off Track

# Service performance measures

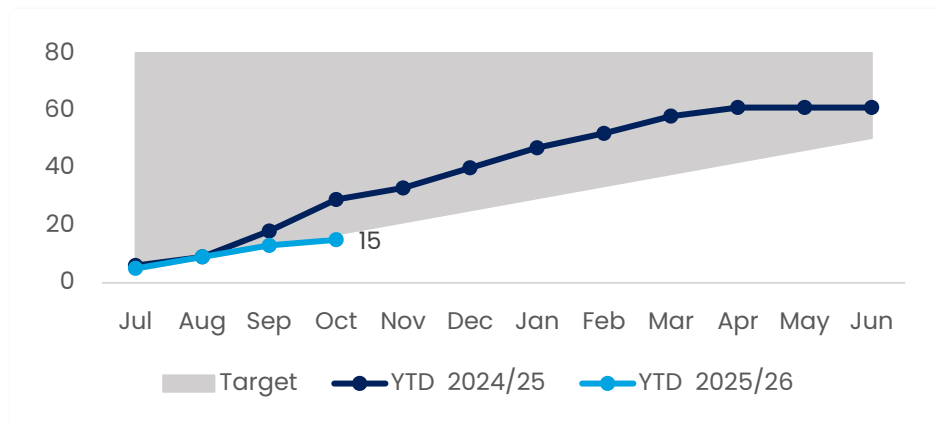
Number of individuals who access a Village Model Service



This indicator measures the number of individuals who access delivered meals, social support groups or transport service. Each individual may have accessed a service more than once during the month. This does not include the Hop-on-hop-off bus service or community connector services.

In October, 117 individuals accessed these services, bringing year-to-date usage to 647. Of these, 23 clients accepted services for meals, social support, and transport; 7 declined; and 10 are still in progress. The Community Connector service managed referrals for 29 individuals and delivered information sessions to 65 more.

Number of older persons housed



In October, two vacancies were made available by Homes Victoria through Council's sponsorship properties, bringing the total number of older people housed this year to 15, below the monthly target of 17.





## Strategic direction 2

# An environmentally sustainable and resilient City

## Highlights

### Don't Waste It! Waste and Recycling Strategy Renewal Consultation

In September and October, we took the draft Don't Waste It! Waste and Recycling Strategy 2025–2028 out to the community for consultation. Earlier this year, we engaged broadly to understand community priorities. This round focused on checking whether we had accurately translated those priorities into the draft strategy.

Over six weeks, we received 90 pieces of feedback, showing strong community interest and helping us refine the strategy.

Here's what we heard:

- More education directly on bins is wanted.
- There's concern about bins taking up a lot of space.
- Communal hubs are being used by 43 per cent of our community.
- Knowing what to recycle is complicated.

- There should be more opportunities to share and repair items to support the 'Circular Economy'.

Using community feedback, we're now developing the new waste and recycling strategy. Keep an eye out for updates or subscribe to the [Have Your Say project page](#). Just click 'Follow' and enter your contact details.

### More Greening and Biodiversity Coming to Danks Street

Since 2019, Danks Street has featured a "Biolink," a wildlife corridor that connects pockets of native vegetation and provides habitat for local fauna. Thanks to \$400,000 in funding from the Department of Transport and Planning, we're starting the next stage to strengthen biodiversity and improve community amenities.

Following community consultation, new initiatives will include water for wildlife, improved nestbox maintenance and planting at least 80 per cent locally indigenous species, alongside rare and trial native trees, shrubs and grasses. More seating and bins will be added, and renewal planting will be completed by June 2026.

Residents and community groups will have opportunities to participate through planting events and biodiversity surveys, helping make the Danks Street Biolink a model for future greening in our city.



Danks Street Biolink

# Major initiatives 2025/26

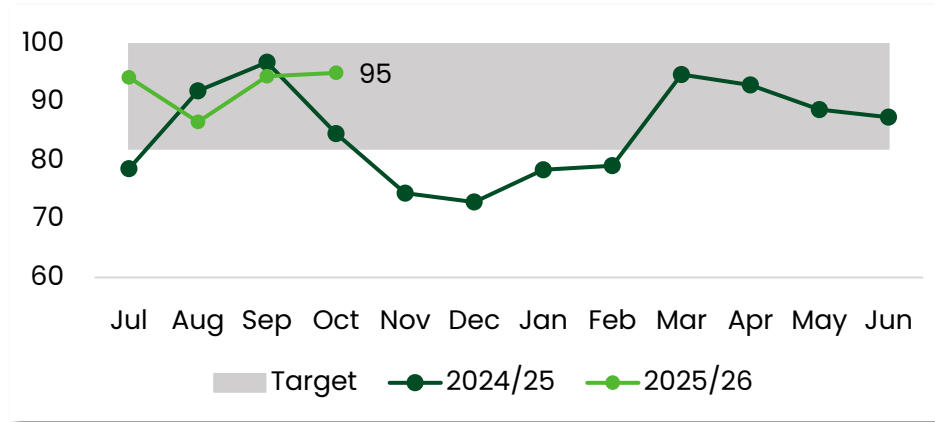
Council delivers multiple projects that contribute to **an environmentally sustainable and resilient community**. Following are the major initiatives (priority projects) we are starting, continuing or completing in 2025/26.

Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>EcoCentre Redevelopment</b> Design and construct a new environmentally sustainable education centre.	Awaiting Closure Report	■	Building works are complete and Practical Completion has been issued. The transition from project delivery to assets and maintenance is ongoing with fortnightly meetings in place to oversee the transition. Minor defects continue to be monitored and rectified. Greenstar Certification is ongoing and will be for the next 12 months.	Apr 2025	219	-
<b>Greening Port Phillip</b> Implement the Urban Forest Strategy by delivering urban forest projects across the municipality, increasing canopy cover, greening and biodiversity while reducing the urban heat island effect.	Project Initiation/ Planning & Design	●	The program is on track. Urban Forest Precinct Plan work continues with the plans for two precincts advanced during October. Delivery of the next four will be awarded to a consultant in December 2025. Understory planting of Fred Jackson Reserve and Sandridge Beach will be complete by the end of November 2025. Project feasibility and service testing continues for all the street tree planting projects.	Jun 2031	1,563	1,563
<b>Provision of Kerbside Collection Service</b> Including specification, development, procurement, transition and implementation of new waste and recycling collection contract.	Delivery	●	The deed of variation to extend the contract is with Cleanaway for review and signing.	Jan 2026	260	237
<b>Stormwater Harvesting</b> Feasibility and concept designs of potential stormwater harvesting schemes across the municipality and make sure existing assets are maintained and renewed.	Project Initiation/ Delivery	●	The Elwood Park Expansion Stormwater Harvesting Scheme and Elwood Canal Planting projects are on track. Both projects are now at the detailed design stage. The second milestone report in accordance with our Federal Funding was submitted and approved by the Federal Department.	Jan 2029	352	425

**Legend** ● On Track/Complete ◆ At Risk ■ Off Track

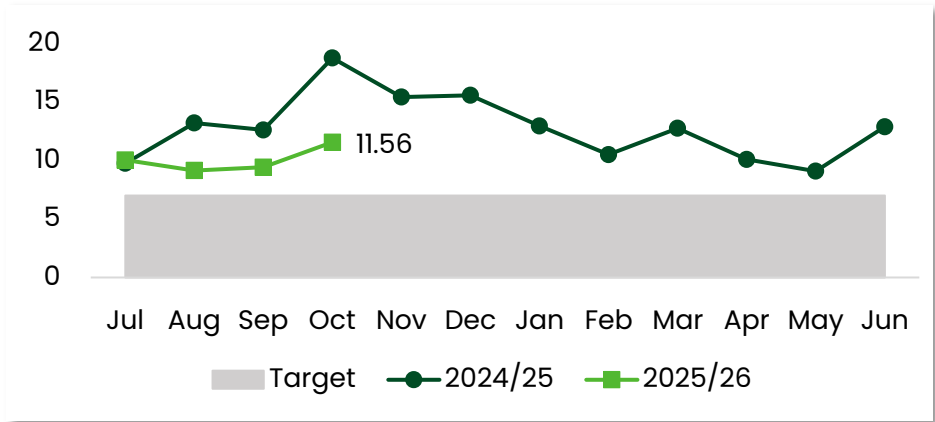
# Service performance measures

Drainage and flooding requests completed on time



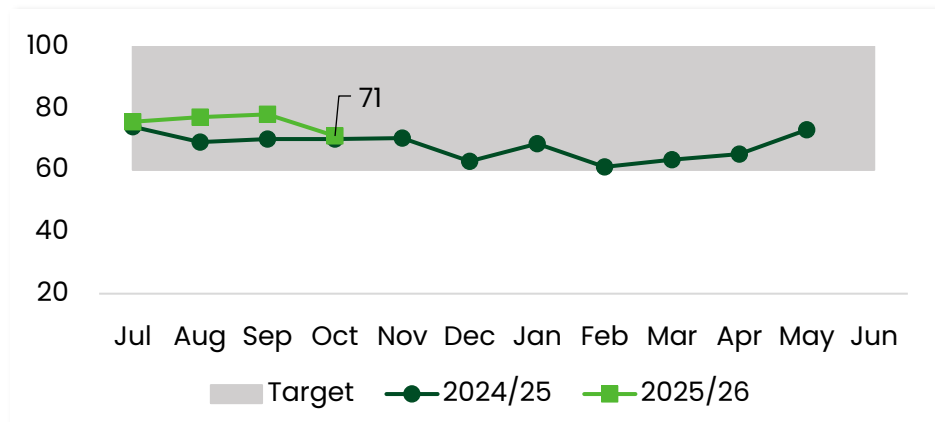
In October, 95 percent of drainage and flooding requests were resolved on time, which exceeds the 82 per cent target.

Kerbside collection bins missed per 10,000 bin lifts



In October, 11.56 Kerbside bins were missed per 10,000 bin lifts, which exceed our target of no more than 7 missed bins per 10,000 bin lifts

Investment in fossil-free institutions as a percentage of overall investment



We continue to exceed the 60 per cent investment in fossil-free institutions target with 71 per cent of the investment portfolio placed with fossil free institutions in October. This has declined from the 78.5 per cent in September. Investment maturities during the month had limited options to reinvest in fossil free low risk financial institutions and were placed with major bank at low risk with higher rates of return, meeting our policy requirements. We will continue monitoring our portfolio and targets.



## Strategic direction 3

# A safe and liveable City

## Highlights

### Shoutout to the Safety and Amenity Team

Thank you to our City Amenity Officers for their swift and compassionate response to community concerns near Balaclava Station. After a resident reported antisocial behaviour, we increased patrols and coordinated support services under our Protocol for Assisting People Who Sleep Rough. These efforts improved safety and cleanliness, with the resident noting:

“ The area looks much better and feels safer. Thank you for acting on my complaint, a really welcome outcome. ”

Resident feedback confirmed the positive change and appreciated our responsiveness. In addition to morning patrols, we introduced an early afternoon patrol to discourage people returning after the initial visit, which proved effective.

### Dogs in the Park – Free Dog Training Event

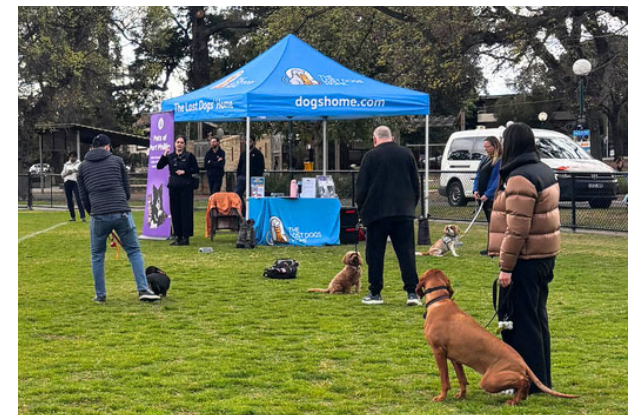
We run quarterly free dog training sessions in partnership with the Lost Dogs' Home to help owners strengthen their bond with their dogs and address unwanted behaviours before they become issues.

At our last event, we broke a record with 42 dogs attending, the highest since the program began in 2019. Previous sessions were also popular, with 38 dogs in June and 31 in March. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants saying the training refreshed their skills and gave them peace of mind through microchip checks and advice on local laws.

During the booking process, one dog was flagged due to a concerning history, including a matter under investigation. As the dog wasn't suitable for group training, we contacted the owner and arranged a private

behaviour consultation, showing how Dogs in the Park creates an avenue for people to seek essential help.

The next event is scheduled for Saturday 13 December in Alma Park. We're looking into upgrading the sound system after feedback about poor audio quality, and we'll continue using pre-training modules and booking reminders to reduce no-shows.



Dogs in the Park – Alma Park



## Point Ormond Beach Access Upgrade

Construction of the Point Ormond Beach Access Upgrade project is now complete. The new access point provides an accessible transition between the Bay Trail and the beach, particularly for people using mobility aids, prams and other wheeled equipment.

It has been built to comply with Australian Standards for access and mobility (AS1428) and is suitable for coastal conditions. Emergency signage has been co-located with the new access point in line with Life Saving Victoria requirements.

The beach access point is now open to the public, and initial feedback from the community has been positive.



Point Ormond Beach Access Upgrade

## New Play Spaces for Our Community (Two Park Upgrades Completed)

### Sol Green Reserve Upgrade

Construction finished on Tuesday 21 October, and the reserve opened to the public on Wednesday 22 October. This project, identified in our Places for People: Public Space Strategy 2022–2032, ensures the park remains a welcoming space for everyone. Key features include:

- relocated and upgraded playground for improved access and safety
- shade structure in the playground
- expanded basketball court and netball ring
- additional seating throughout the reserve
- improved garden beds and tree planting
- upgraded lighting
- Indigenous artwork by Simone Thomson.



Sol Green Reserve Upgrade

### St Vincent Gardens Playground Upgrade

The upgraded playground opened on Tuesday 21 October, delivering a safe and inclusive space that meets Australian Safety Standards. Highlights include:

- new entrance with an upgraded pedestrian path
- paved meeting area with seating, picnic tables, drinking fountain and shelter
- play area featuring carousel, basket swing, slides, in-ground trampoline, monkey bars, rockers, balancing logs and nature play
- improved garden beds and tree planting
- bespoke steel panels to be installed later this month, adding a distinctive design element that reflects the character of St Vincent Gardens.




Both projects are short-term actions from our Places for People: Public Space Strategy 2022–2032, and official openings are planned for late November. These upgrades reflect our commitment to creating safe, accessible and enjoyable public spaces for everyone.







St Vincent Gardens Playground Upgrade






# Major initiatives 2025/26

Council delivers multiple projects that contribute to **a safe and liveable City**. Following are the major initiatives (priority projects) we are starting, continuing or completing in 2025/26.

Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>Community Safety Plan</b> Create and implement a new Community Safety Plan to enhance the safety and resilience of our community.	Delivery		Community consultation on the draft strategy took place between 6 October and 2 November including a have your say page and survey, reconvening of the Community Safety Roundtable, workshops with people with lived experience and additional stakeholder interviews. The final proposed plan and associated implementation approach and budget will be presented to Councillor briefing in November ahead of proposed endorsement in December.	Dec 2025	Operating Budget	
<b>Elwood Foreshore Masterplan</b> Develop and implement a master plan for the redevelopment of the Elwood foreshore including buildings, carpark and open spaces. The program includes working closely with Melbourne Water on the upgrade of the Elwood Main Drain.	Project Initiation		The program remains at risk pending the appointment of a Program Director. Melbourne Water have now awarded the Main Drain construction works package. Further, they have indicated delays to site handover of the Croquet area, which will occur in late 2026, and the sportsground areas, expected in mid-2027.	Dec 2025	899	860
<b>Fishermans Bend</b> Develop a new park in Fishermans Bend, delivered by adjacent developer.	Discovery & Concept/ Delivery		We are working with the State Government to advance local infrastructure projects—Johnson Street Park, Smith Street Upgrades (Stage 1), and Sandridge Recreation Precinct (Stage 1 demolition)—funded by developers through the Fishermans Bend Development Contributions Plan (DCP). Draft Delivery Agreements are being prepared to define Council's delivery role and secure DCP funds.	Jun 2029	4,528	1,868

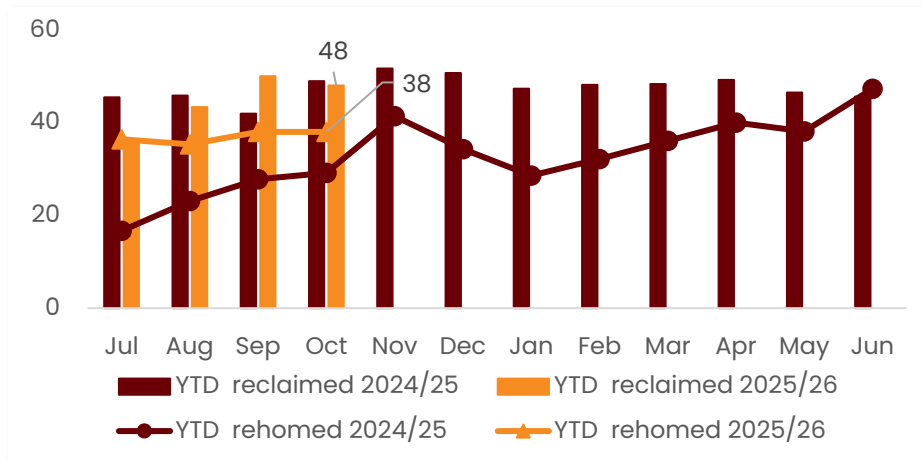
Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
			<p>Advocacy has intensified for the DCP and Montague Precinct Implementation Plan to be finalised before the State Election.</p> <p>We welcome the Integrated Transport Plan but seek firm timelines and funding for bus and cycling network expansion. DTP will brief Councillors on 10 December.</p> <p>Sandridge Recreation Precinct master planning continues, with a draft for consultation expected mid-2026.</p>			
<b>Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP)</b> Review and renew the MEMP for City of Port Phillip.	Delivery		The Southern Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee endorsed the MEMP in August, pending some amendments. The amendments are being finalised, and the plan will be uploaded to Council website in November.	Nov 2025	Operating Budget	
<b>Open Space and Tree Maintenance Contract Procurement</b> Deliver the open space and tree maintenance procurement project to make sure the City's open spaces and urban forest are well maintained.	Delivery		The Open Space and Tree contracts were considered by Council at the October Scheduled Council meeting. Council resolved to issue the Open Space contract to Green by Nature Landscaping Solutions and the Tree contract to Arborcraft Tree Services. The incumbent and other tenders were advised of the outcome. Contract documents are being prepared for execution.	Apr 2026	32	70
<b>Shrine to Sea works</b> Upgrade Kerferd Road median strip and foreshore, increasing greening, pathways, wayfinding signage and pedestrian amenities.	Planning & Design		The project is on track. Community engagement on the concept design has concluded. An engagement report summary is being finalised for release in the coming weeks. The draft tender package is being reviewed for release to the market in January 2026.	Jun 2028	322	364
<b>Sol Green Playground Upgrade</b> Upgrade of Sol Green playground.	Delivery		The construction works are complete. Practical Completion was issued on 21 October, and the Reserve is now open to the community. An	Jun 2026	2,354	2,403



Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
			opening event will be held on site on 25 November 2026.			
<b>St Kilda Pier Landside Works Upgrade</b> Partner with the state government to deliver landside works for the St Kilda Pier including a feasibility study for Pier Road.	Discovery & Concept/ Delivery		The project is At Risk due to delays in external authority approvals. To maintain the schedule, we've advanced later-stage works in areas not requiring permits. This month we completed subgrade preparation, began driveway concrete pouring, managed contaminated soil, finished foreshore earthworks, and started landscaping. Once approval is received, we'll assess schedule impacts and update stakeholders and the community.	Feb 2026	2,354	2,403
<b>St Vincent Gardens Playgrounds</b> Upgrade of St Vincent Gardens playground.	Delivery		The construction works are complete. Practical Completion was certified on 16 October and park was opened to the public 22 October. An opening event will be held on site on 21 November 2026.	Jun 2026	1,325	1,355
<b>Legend</b>  On Track/Complete  At Risk  Off Track						

# Service performance measures

Percentage of animals reclaimed and rehomed



In October, of the 61 animals collected from 1 July 2025 to 31 October 2025, 29 animals (47.54%) were reclaimed by their owners.

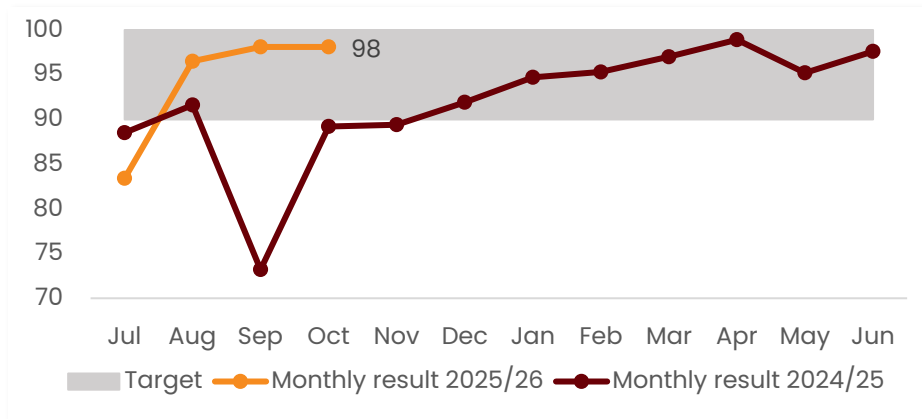
Out of the remaining 32 animals, 12 animal was rehomed (37.5%).

A further 8 animals (25.00%) out of the remaining (32) animals were being assessed at the time this report was generated. All avenues are explored to ensure animals find new homes.

9 out of the 61 animals collected were surrendered by their owners (14.75%).

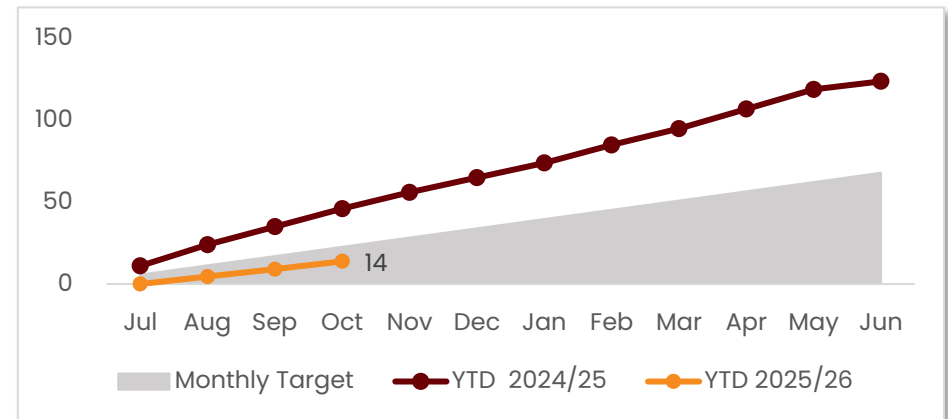
Number of euthanised of the remaining animals (32) was 11 (34.37%).

Dumped rubbish requests completed on time



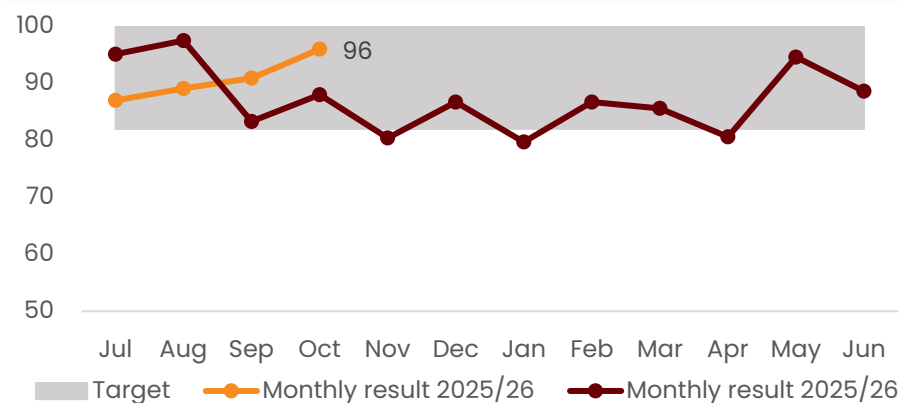
In October, 98 per cent of dumped rubbish requests were completed on time, exceeding our target of 90 per cent.

Sealed local road requests per 100 km of sealed local road



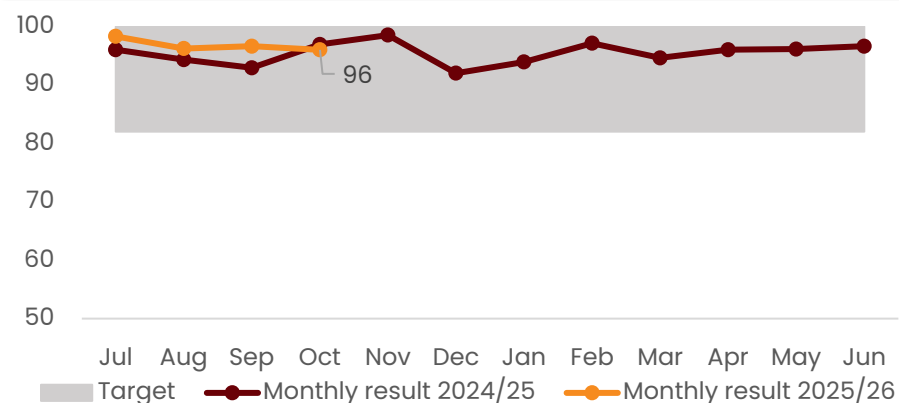
In October, 13 requests were received regarding sealed local road conditions across a 266 km network. We are tracking well against the annual target of fewer than 68 requests per 100 km, currently sitting at 14 per 100 km.

### Excessive or unreasonable noise requests responded to on time



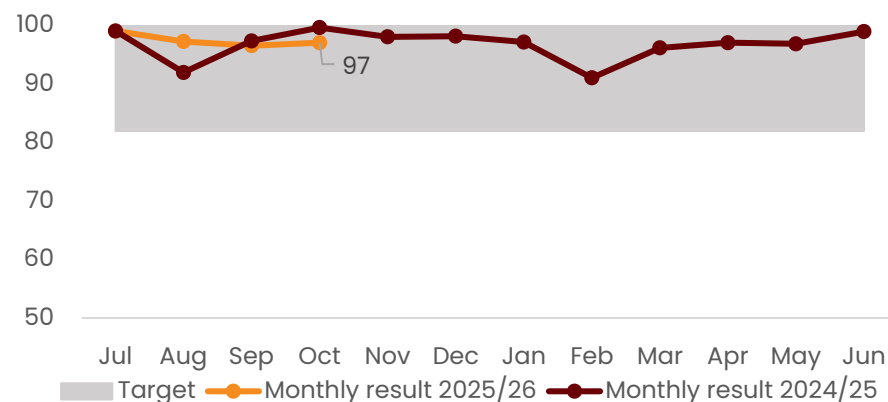
In October, 96 per cent of excessive or unreasonable noise reports were responded to on time, exceeding the 82 per cent target.

### Street and laneway cleaning requests responded to on time



In October, 96 per cent of street and laneway cleaning requests were completed to on time, exceeding the 82 per cent target.

### Graffiti management requests completed on time



In October, 96 per cent of graffiti management requests were completed to on time, exceeding the 82 per cent target.



## Strategic direction 4

# A vibrant and thriving community

## Highlights

### Major Events in October

October was a big month for major events, offering our community a wide range of activities and showcasing the best of our city to visitors.

- Melbourne Marathon – A record number of runners came through our city, with 12,152 in the marathon and 2,155 in the half marathon, totalling 24,307 participants.
- Oktoberfest in Catani Gardens – Around 7,000 people enjoyed Oktoberfest in the sunshine, many in costume and supporting local traders after the event.
- Around the Bay – The 31st edition of this iconic ride saw 6,000 cyclists tackle five different distances on a wet and windy day, with the event hub at Albert Park.
- Burrata Festival at South Melbourne Market

These events attracted thousands of participants and visitors, reinforcing our city's

reputation as a vibrant destination for major events.

### Burrata Festival at South Melbourne Market

On Thursday 30 October, we hosted Australia's first Burrata Festival at South Melbourne Market in partnership with That's Amore Cheese. The Market's rooftop carpark was transformed into a vibrant event space featuring food and market stalls, cooking demonstrations, masterclasses and live music.

More than 2,000 guests attended, and the festival attracted significant media coverage across outlets including Time Out, Beat Magazine, Urban List and Channel Nine's Today Show. This coverage promoted the Market and the local area to a wide audience.

We are trialling the use of the rooftop carpark as a venue for hire, having hosted two major events there this year, the Vinnies CEO

Sleepout and Burrata Festival. This approach creates an opportunity to generate revenue when the Market is otherwise closed.



**Burrata Festival**

### Ride2Work Day at South Melbourne Market

On Wednesday 15 October, we hosted a full day of free entertainment and activities on Cecil Street for Ride2Work Day. The event

featured a complimentary breakfast and coffee for riders, free bike tune-ups by Back2Bikes, bike engraving by Victoria Police, and activations, giveaways and stalls from Port Phillip Bicycle User Group, Bicycle Network, Kieser Physio, the Heart Foundation and our Sustainable Transport team.

Throughout the day, visitors enjoyed cooking demonstrations by A Better Choice! and Veg Ed, cooking classes with Foost, free face painting and games for kids, plus yoga classes, crochet and jewellery-making workshops and live music. The event promoted healthy living, wellness, sustainability and community connection for residents, workers and shoppers.

This was the first time we hosted Ride2Work Day at this scale and for a full day. Attendance exceeded expectations, and feedback from attendees, participating organisations and local businesses was overwhelmingly positive. While the weather was perfect this year, we'll assess other locations and develop contingency plans to manage weather risks in future.



**Ride2Work Day at South Melbourne Market**

## **New Sports Club Audit Tool to Support Gender Equity**

This month we launched the Sports Club Fair Access Audit Tool, an initiative designed to help local sports clubs create inclusive and welcoming environments for women and girls. The tool enables clubs to assess their current practices, celebrate achievements and identify opportunities to improve gender equity and access.

The audit tool is a key action from our Fair Access in Sport Policy, developed in response to the Victorian Government's Fair Access in Sport Roadmap and endorsed in June 2024. It is relevant for all clubs, whether they currently offer programs for women or girls. Clubs are encouraged to complete the audit by June 2026, and we are supporting them through drop-in sessions and tailored guidance from our officers and health promotion organisations. Conversations at these sessions have been positive, with passionate club's keen to drive participation and support more women and girls in sport.

So far, one club has completed the tool, and several have registered for online support sessions. The audits will result in action plans for clubs to implement, supporting their ongoing success and sustainability.

## **Peanut Farm Reserve Lit Up the Winter Nights**

To help our community stay active and connected during the colder months, we trialled evening lighting on the sportsground and sports courts every weekday until 8.30 pm. This meant that even when the days were






short and the nights long, people could still enjoy a welcoming space to move and play.

Whether it was shooting hoops with friends, going for a jog or taking the dog out for a play, the reserve became a bright spot for staying healthy and having fun. We loved seeing so many locals make the most of this opportunity to keep active during winter.

The trial responded to community requests to activate the space, especially for dog walking. While our attempt to collect usage data via a QR code wasn't effective, we saw a reduction in lighting requests and complaints. For future trials, we'll start from daylight savings and improve signage and notifications to the community.

# Major initiatives 2025/26

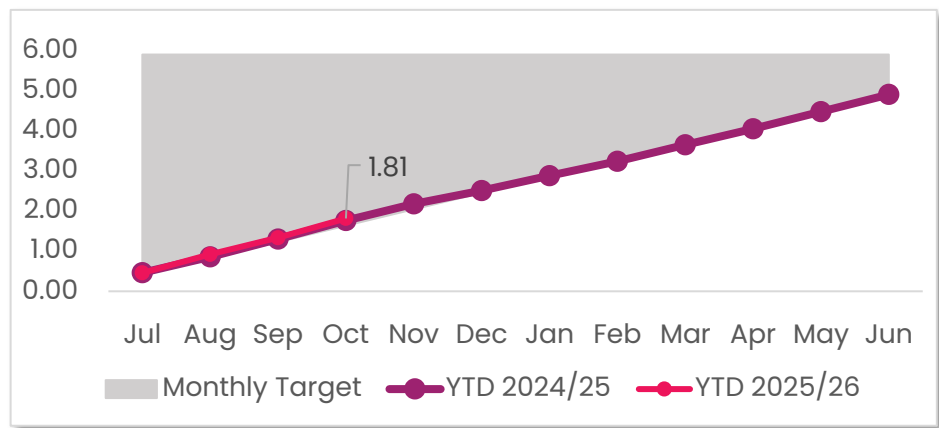
Council delivers multiple projects that contribute to **a vibrant and thriving community**. Following are the major initiatives (priority projects) we are starting, continuing or completing in 2025/26.

Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>Carlisle St Carparks Strategy Execution</b> Redevelop the Carlisle Street carparks to facilitate the creation of the Balaclava Retail Renewal Precinct.	Delivery		The project is on track. Officers are finalising negotiations in preparation to formalise the sale. An independent valuation has been received by the parties and a supplementary valuation will also be obtained to determine the sale price.	Jul 2026	13	-
<b>Lagoon Reserve Pavilion &amp; Park Improve</b> Deliver the new multi-story Lagoon Reserve pavilion project.	Planning & Design		Lagoon Reserve Pavilion is At Risk but nearing completion. Construction is done except for the lift, landscaping wraps up by late November, and the occupancy certificate is expected soon. Once issued, the pavilion will be ready for the community.	Nov 2025	3,545	3,780
<b>Port Melbourne Netball Infrastructure</b> Deliver expanded netball facilities in and around Port Melbourne for the growing and inclusive sport.	Discovery & Concept		The Port Melbourne Netball Infrastructure project remains Off Track while alternate locations are investigated. Following feasibility assessments, a way forward has been identified and will go to Council for consideration in December 2025.	Dec 2025	1,772	1,777
<b>South Melbourne Market Connect Project</b> Design and deliver the South Melbourne Market Project Connect to upgrade and renew the Market.	Delivery		We endorsed the recommendation for awarding a contract a Principal Design Consultant contract at the 15 October 2025 Council Meeting. Contract is being finalised with contract execution due end November.	Jun 2031	462	533
<b>South Melbourne Town Hall</b> Renew South Melbourne Town Hall and work with the Australian National Academy of Music on the reopening of the Town Hall.	Delivery		Redevelopment is progressing well, with seismic steel works in the main hall and new slate roofs on the east and southern wings. ANAM integration is underway with demolition started. The project is now marked 'At Risk' due to insufficient forecast contingency for the remaining construction.	Feb 2024	880	1,044

**Legend**       On Track/Complete       At Risk       Off Track

# Service performance measures

Library visits per head of population



In October, our libraries recorded 54,158 visits, maintaining almost identical visitation compared to the same time last year (0.46 visits per head of population). This brings the cumulative total to 1.81 visits per head against an annual target of 4.9. Please note that figures for St Kilda between 8/10 and 16/10 have been extrapolated due to a security gate outage, using average weekday data from other days in the month.





## Strategic direction 5

# An engaged and empowered community

## Highlights

### Councillors Welcome School Groups to St Kilda Town Hall

Recently, our Councillors welcomed school groups to St Kilda Town Hall for tours and conversations about leadership. Students were curious about the role of a Councillor, local leadership and the history of the building. They particularly enjoyed seeing the possum cloak and the Albert Jacka cabinet and received a booklet detailing the Town Hall's history.

Councillors reported that the tours were fantastic, with students highly engaged and asking great questions. We look forward to connecting with more schools and students in the future.

The recent tours successfully connected local students with Councillors as community leaders. Two groups attended, one with 66 students and another with 30, both schools shared positive feedback. For future visits,

we'll add more structure to help Councillors and officers feel prepared and explore further ways to strengthen these connections.

### Award Winner: Community Engagement

We are honoured to receive the Core Values Award (Environment) from the Engagement Institute for our community engagement on the Urban Forest Strategy 2024–2040. This strategy was shaped through four rounds of collaborative, data-driven consultation with more than 600 participants. Feedback praised its transparency, inclusiveness and achievability.

We used innovative tools such as canopy mapping, interactive spatial platforms and iterative feedback loops to inform a robust action plan. Transparent data sharing enabled meaningful dialogue and alignment of diverse interests. So far, 600 individuals and community organisations across the

municipality have contributed to shaping this important strategy.

### Engagement Highlights

We've been working with our community to shape plans and policies that matter most. Here's what we asked for feedback on this month:

[Community Safety Plan](#) – Proposes stronger partnerships, improved public spaces and inclusive safety initiatives to foster a sense of belonging.

[Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy](#) – A 10-year plan to help achieve functional zero homelessness by improving access to secure, affordable and social housing.

[Carlisle Street Streetscape Plan](#) – Draft concepts for a more vibrant and accessible street, including better paving, safer

crossings, greener spaces and upgrades to St Kilda Town Hall and Library entrances.

[Local Law Review](#) – Proposed updates to rules for storing caravans, boats and trailers on public land, including a 14-day limit within a 60-day period.

Each draft plan is shaped by community input, and we're inviting feedback to ensure they reflect local priorities.

## Advocacy Highlights

We've continued to advocate for outcomes that matter to our community. This month, our focus included:

[Grand Prix Amendment Bill](#) – We supported the passing of the Grand Prix Amendment Bill 2025 and welcomed clearer processes for compensating impacted sports clubs and businesses, along with updated public access declarations. We've called for investment in legacy infrastructure, economic activation and environmental resilience to ensure Albert Park delivers lasting benefits.





[Fishermans Bend Transport Plan](#) – We acknowledged the release of the Fishermans Bend Integrated Transport Plan as a key milestone but raised concerns about the lack of delivery timeframes and funding commitments. We've urged the Victorian Government to provide clarity on new tram and Metro 2 delivery to unlock the precinct's full potential.

[Melbourne 9 \(M9\) Advocacy](#) – As part of the M9 alliance, we met with Members of Parliament to discuss shared priorities ahead of the 2026 State Election, including community safety, infrastructure investment

and transport connectivity across inner Melbourne.

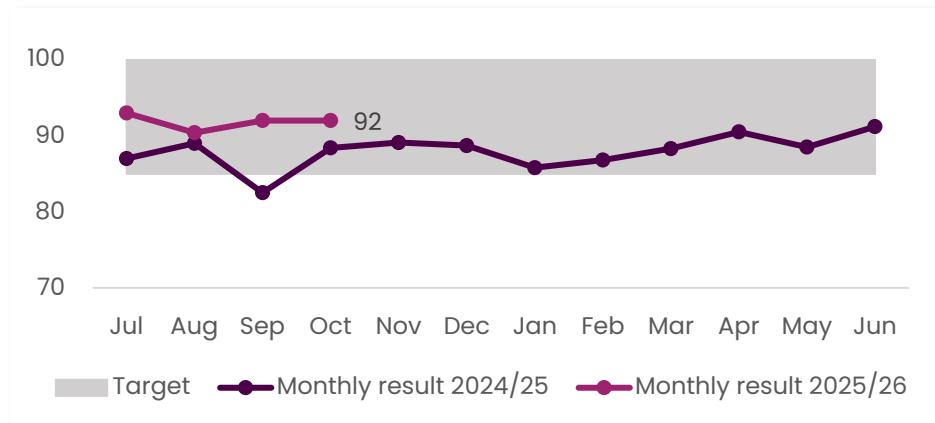
# Major initiatives 2025/26

Council delivers multiple projects that contribute to **an engaged and empowered community**. Following are the major initiatives (priority projects) we are starting, continuing or completing in 2025/26.

Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>Governance Rules</b> Review the Governance Rules and implement its outcomes	Delivery		Governance Rules were adopted in September. Councillors received training on their application in October, and all online collateral was updated, including the website and the “Participating in Council Meetings” pages. A transition plan was also implemented to support community participation, ensuring residents could adapt smoothly to the updated rules and continue engaging effectively in Council processes.	Ongoing		Operating Budget
<b>Legend</b>  On Track/Complete  At Risk  Off Track						

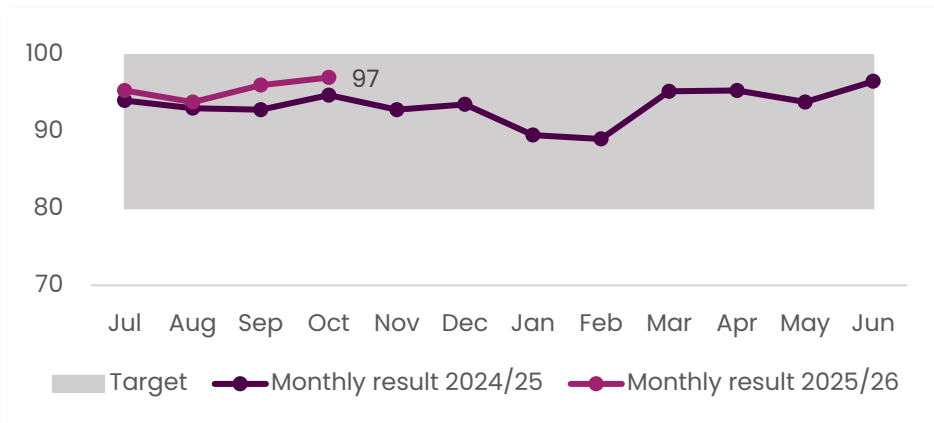
# Service performance measures

Community service requests resolved within agreed timeframes



In October, 92 per cent of community service requests resolved within agreed timeframes, exceeding the 85 per cent target.

Complaints resolved within agreed timeframes (includes missed bins)



In October, 97 per cent of community complaints were resolved within agreed timeframes, exceeding the 85 per cent target.



## Strategic direction 6

# A trusted and high-performing organisation

## Highlights

### Securing Reliable Waste Services

We have endorsed a four-year contract extension with Cleanaway Waste Management Limited for kerbside waste and recycling services. This follows a tender process earlier this year, prompted by significant collection issues in 2023 under the previous contract.

An independent investigation was conducted, and we've since strengthened our procurement policies to improve financial sustainability, accountability and transparency.

Cleanaway has demonstrated its ability to meet the unique demands of our City's density. The new contract is designed to be flexible and align with future legislative requirements, including the Victorian Government's mandatory four-bin system.

This positions Council to continue delivering high-quality waste services into the future.

Learn more about the contract extension and our waste service improvements.



**Cleanaway fleet**

### National Safe Work Month and Children's Week

October was National Safe Work Month, a time for employers and workers across

Australia to reaffirm their commitment to creating safe, healthy and supportive workplaces. This year's theme, Safety: Every Job, Every Day, encouraged organisations of all sizes and industries to prioritise safety in every aspect of work. We promoted WorkSafe Victoria webinars alongside other internal communications.

As part of our wellbeing initiatives, we offered staff a series of informative training sessions focused on retirement planning. These included sessions on the Transition to Retirement process and a comprehensive seminar guiding employees through pre-retirement preparation and the transition into retirement.

The Victorian Government released new Psychological Health Regulations, scheduled for enactment in December 2025. We are well positioned to meet compliance requirements after reviewing the draft regulations and

enhancing our safety management systems, training and support mechanisms for staff.

During Children's Week (18 to 26 October), we promoted child safety practices across the organisation.

### **Road Reconstruction Update – Park Street, St Kilda**

We have implemented a temporary fix and additional patching to maintain safety on Park Street. These measures are being actively monitored while we work through the permit process with relevant authorities.

Permanent reconstruction works are scheduled to begin shortly and to be finalised in early December



**Park Street upgrade**

# Major initiatives 2025/26

Council delivers multiple projects that contribute to **a trusted and high-performing organisation**. Following are the major initiatives (priority projects) we are starting, continuing or completing in 2025/26.

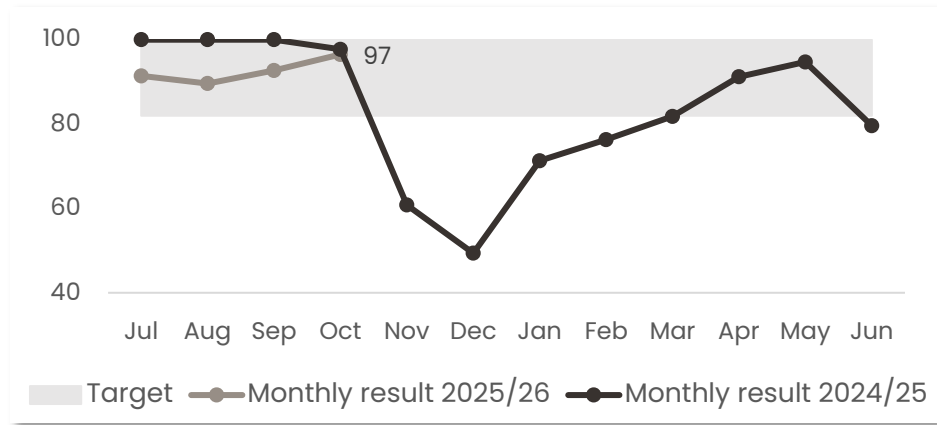
Major Initiative	Stage	Status	Update	Completion Date	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
<b>Clever Port Phillip</b> Deliver and refine annually our Clever Port Phillip Action Plan to support innovation, improved productivity, customer experience and financial efficiency.	Project Initiation/ Delivery	●	Project delivery is progressing well, with 81% of projects on track to meet agreed milestones. The remaining projects are experiencing minor delays but are expected to finish by their planned end dates. To date in Q2, 5 optimisations within our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, OneCouncil, had been completed resulting in 258 days saved for our employee base, driving greater productivity and 113 665 days saved for our community, making interacting with the Council easier and simpler for our community.	Dec 2027	556	564
<b>Human resource and payroll system renewal</b> Deliver the human resource and payroll system project to support improved employee experience, productivity and recruitment (the scope of the payroll upgrade is yet to be developed).	Discovery & Concept	■	Status is off track as the evaluation process has been extended to now be a February Council approval. The extension was required to consider further information from the vendors and broader evaluation process.	Dec 2026	1,142	1,249
<b>Portfolio Delivery Improvement Plan</b> Enhance project portfolio management, delivery and outcomes by benchmarking our capability and developing and implementing an improvement plan.	Delivery	●	The priority actions have been disseminated into improvement workstreams across project improvement areas and indicative timelines assigned. The EPMO are not confirmed scope of changes and working with governance in the review of governance forums to ensure an integrated uplift of governance and framework.	Ongoing	Operating Budget	

**Legend**      ● On Track/Complete      ◆ At Risk      ■ Off Track



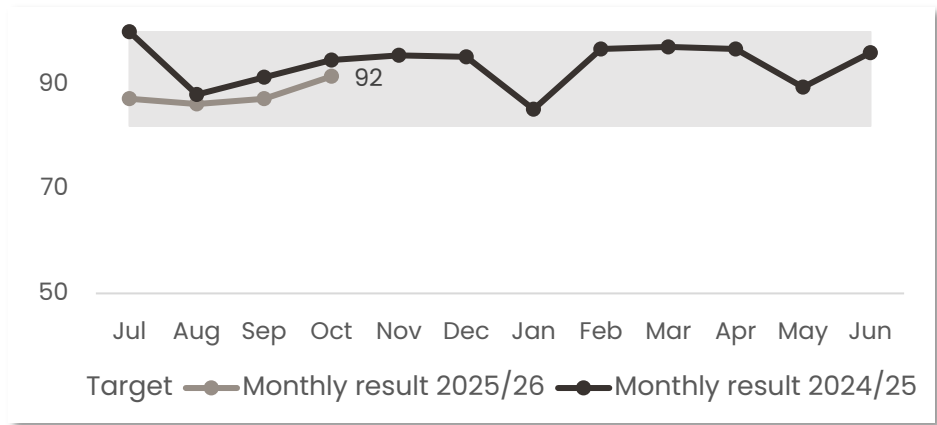
# Service performance measures

Building maintenance requests completed on time



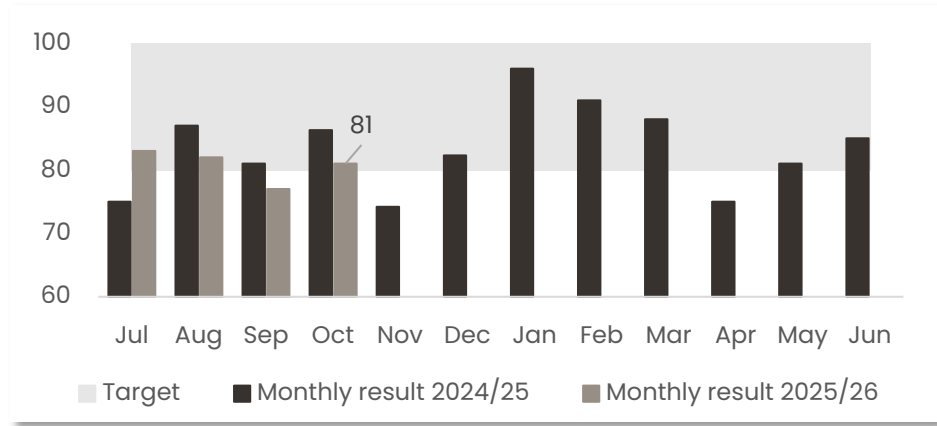
In October, 96.5 per cent of building maintenance requests were completed on time, exceeding our target of 82 per cent.

Rates related service requests completed on time



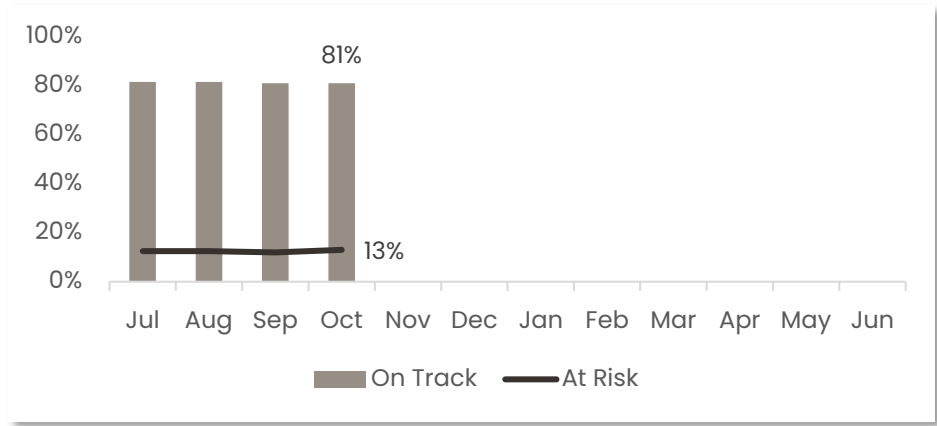
In October, 92 per cent of rates related service requests were completed on time, exceeding our target of 80 per cent.

Occupational health and safety incidents reported within 24 hours



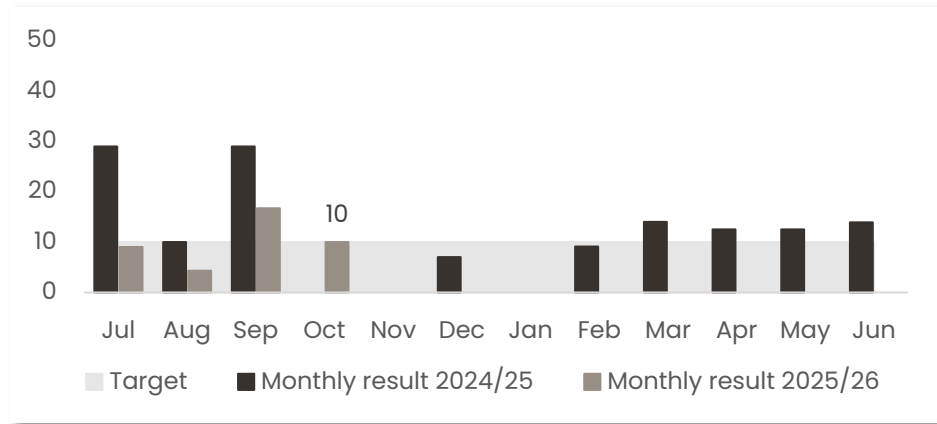
In October, a total of 59 occupational health and safety issues were reported with 48 (81 per cent) being reported within 24 hours. This is slightly above target of 80 per cent.

Projects reporting on track or at risk



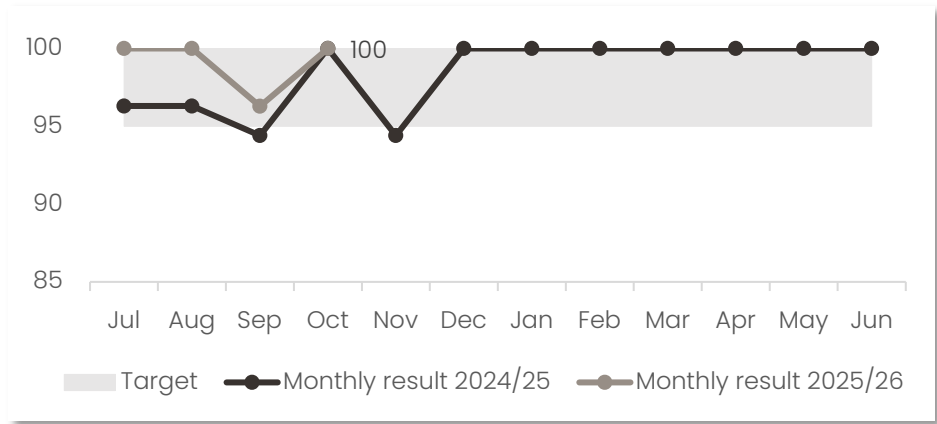
In October 81 per cent of projects reported on track and 13 per cent of projects reported at risk. The equates to a combined 94 per cent of projects on track or at risk, which exceeds target of 80 per cent.

Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public (percentage)



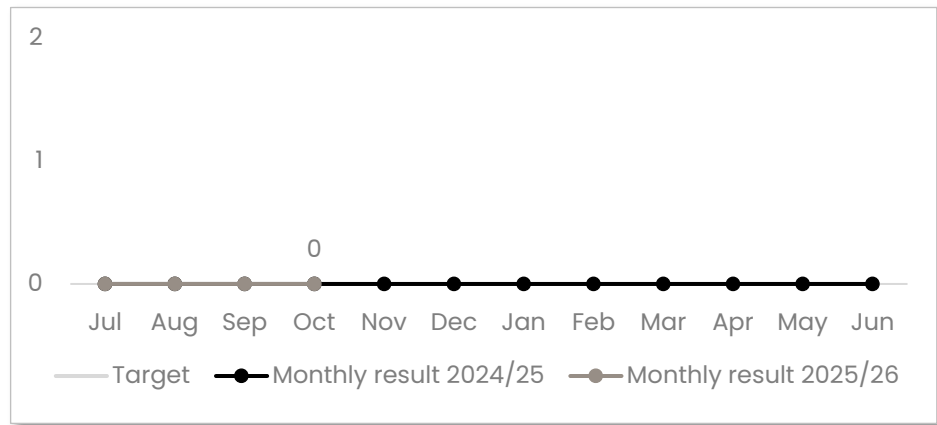
In October, our councillors made 20 decisions, of which 2 (10 per cent) were made at meetings closed to the public. This meets target of 10 per cent of decisions made at meetings closed to the public.

Councillor attendance at Council meetings



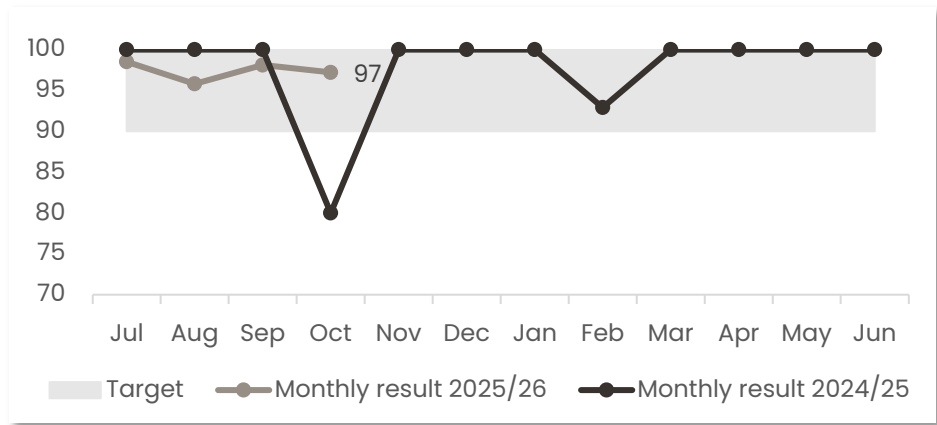
No apologies were received for meetings held in October 2025.

Material legislative breaches



There were no material legislative breaches in October 2025.

Land information certificates submitted on time

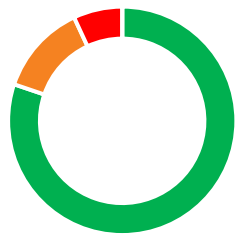


In October, 97.2 per cent of land information certificates were issued on time, exceeding the 90 per cent target.

# Project portfolio report

The project portfolio is the projects, including major initiatives, set out in the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35.

## Overall status



**On track** 81%

Latest result has achieved target.  
On track across all elements.

**At risk** 13%

Latest result experienced a minor  
miss in relation to target measure.

**Off track** 6%

A significant variation from the  
target measure. Off track for one  
or more elements.

## Portfolio status trend

	12-month average	Jul 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025
On track	75%	82%	82%	81%	81%
At risk	15%	12%	12%	12%	13%
Off track	10%	6%	6%	7%	6%

## Portfolio financial performance

	Number of projects	Annual budget (\$ million)	Annual forecast (\$ million)	YTD forecast (\$ million)	YTD budget (\$ million)	YTD variance (\$ million)
Capital	265	80.9	78.5	21.5	37.3	(2.3)
Operating	121	12.6	10.9	3.2	5.2	(0.6)
Total	386	93.5	89.4	24.7	42.5	(3.0)

## Project portfolio changes

Project	Change
Gasworks Arts Park – Park Upgrade	Project revised completion date from September 2025 to October 2025 due to 7-week delay from plant supply, and completion of contract variations to paths, lowering existing pits and changing irrigation design.

# Financial update

As of 31 October 2025, the full-year forecast 2025/26 cash surplus stands at \$1.1 million, \$0.55 million above the adopted budget. There have been several key movements that have influenced the cash surplus this year:

- \$0.9 million in permanent efficiency savings achieved primarily through rationalisation of department budget without impact to services, management of insurance premiums, successful objections to land tax payable on land acquisitions and further improvement to management of parking infringements.
- \$0.3 million in one off savings due to organisational vacancies
- \$0.4 million additional rental income provided back to Council for the short-term lease of the Australia Post site which was extended to December 2025.
- (\$0.07) million of approved additional items during the first quarter review including additional funding for the Ripponlea Place Plan and Emerald Hill Masterplan Refresh.
- (\$0.65) million increase in expenditure following the award of the Tree Maintenance & Management and Open Space Maintenance Contracts
- The audited financial result for 2024/25 was marginally below forecast by \$0.17 million, resulting in a lower opening cash surplus carried into 2025/26.

Several other movements were recorded this year that did not affect the cash surplus, key movements include:

- Amendments to AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement (applied as of 30 June 2025):
  - \$4 million increase in depreciation
  - \$2.4 million reclassification from operating to capital expenditure
  - \$194 million uplift in Council's asset base following asset revaluation
- \$1.8 million in net project deferrals, arising from year-end adjustments post-adoption of the 2025/26 budget. These include projects completed ahead of schedule and brought forward into 2024/25, as well as others deferred to future years.
- (\$0.6) million for the extension of the Kerbside Collection Waste Contract including a one-off payment for the contractor for a series of service-optimisations to improve reliability and efficiency, reduce underlying costs, and support Council's service transformation objectives. This will be funded by a drawdown on the Waste Charge Reserve

## Key Financial Updates and Indicators:

- A forecast cumulative cash surplus balance of \$1.1 million noting ongoing risk of changing economic conditions and inflationary pressures.

- A forecast overall low risk rating using the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) financial sustainability indicators.
- Forecasted net operating result of \$12.1 million (4.0 per cent of total revenue), a funding source for capital works.
- A forecasted working capital ratio of 240 per cent.
- A forecasted cash and investment balance of \$82 million. Majority of this is held in reserves and tied to specific delivery of projects and services (e.g., open space developer contributions, project deferrals and specific grants)
- Working towards a target of \$1.3 million efficiency savings for Budget 2026/27 with \$1.28m of efficiency savings achieved year to date. Permanent efficiency savings achieved primarily through rationalisation of department budget without impact to services, management of insurance premiums, successful objections to land tax payable on land acquisitions, further improvement to management of parking infringements, the introduction of a new position to manage infringement volumes expected to secure additional infringement revenue and organisational realignment.
- Council offers support for ratepayers who are suffering extreme financial hardship. This year, rates waivers totalling \$586 (1 waiver) were issued and in the prior years, rates waivers totalling \$9,283 (17 waivers) were issued.

## Summarised Income Statement Converted to Cash

	Year to Date				Full Year			
	Actual	Forecast	Variance		Forecast	Budget	Variance	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Total Income	103,428	103,292	137	0%	288,916	288,828	88	(0%)
Total Expenses	87,195	87,737	542	1%	276,813	273,843	(2,969)	(1%)
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>16,233</b>	<b>15,554</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>12,103</b>	<b>14,985</b>	<b>(2,883)</b>	<b>(19%)</b>
<b>Income Statement Converted to Cash:</b>								
Capital Expenditure	(18,280)	(20,818)	2,538	(12%)	(73,714)	(74,079)	364	(0%)
Non-cash operating items	11,350	11,269	81	1%	35,802	31,802	4,000	13%
Financing Items	(528)	(507)	(20)	(4%)	(1,522)	(1,522)	0	0%
Net Reserves Drawdown (Replenish)	0	0	0	0%	25,274	26,033	(759)	(3%)
<b>Current Year Cash Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>8,776</b>	<b>5,498</b>	<b>3,278</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>(2,057)</b>	<b>(2,781)</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>(26%)</b>
Opening cash surplus balance	3,143	3,143	0	0%	3,143	3,317	(174)	(5%)
<b>Accumulated Cash Surplus</b>	<b>11,919</b>	<b>8,641</b>	<b>3,278</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>103%</b>

Detailed financial statements and notes will be published on a quarterly basis as part of the quarterly financial updates and mid-year review.

# Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) Action Plan Update

This mid-year update outlines our progress against the action plans developed in response to the 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey. It highlights key initiatives delivered to date and areas where work is continuing. The satisfaction is scored on a 10-point scale.

Action Plan for the 2025 CSS Survey		Mid-year Update	CSS Measures 2025	CoPP
<b>Customer service<sup>1</sup></b>	Delivery of 25/26 Customer Experience Improvement Plan per Council Plan commitment. Key areas to address satisfaction:	Supported improvements to Snap Send Solve to reduce duplicate reports and improve communication.	Overall satisfaction with customer service experience	7.3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve resolution of Issues (including in SSS channel – targeted closure communication, particularly dumped rubbish and illegally parked vehicles)</li> </ul>	Implemented process improvements and close-out communications for trees, open spaces, and dumped rubbish.	Courtesy and Professionalism (new)	7.9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support service teams to provide updates/follow up (specifically Insurance Claims, Trees and Open Spaces and complex complaints)</li> </ul>	Reviewed and revised processes and communications for community insurance claims, with ongoing monitoring.	Provision of accurate information (new)	7.5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue Quality Assurance, Case Management and Learnings approach, for better communications through all service channels including clarity of information and closing out of issues.</li> </ul>	Rolled out a customer feedback dashboard to service leaders to guide improvement actions. Parking services workshops and insights are informing process and communication improvements for handling reports of illegally parked vehicles.	Speed and efficiency of service (new)	7.1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rolling out survey feedback to services for ownership and local targeted improvements</li> </ul>	Launched a revised internal self-service help hub to support staff in resolving service requests and complaints. The hub includes help cards, guides, and tips, making the		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement key CX Culture and Capability Uplift Actions (to be confirmed in August – when review is complete, and action plan is established)</li> </ul>			

system easier to navigate—especially for new staff.

We are receiving in the order of 1,500 service satisfaction survey responses and over 500 verbatim comments from our service request closure communications. A range of services with high volume requests are already showing improved reported satisfaction and ease scores. With overall satisfaction reflecting improvements across the year.

<b>Communication services</b>	<p>The new Communications Plan covers all planned uplifts to communication services in detail. This Plan is currently in draft form and is expected to be finalised in Q1 2025. The Plan will cover all communications channels including website, Divercity, social media, targeted communications initiatives and physical communications such as signage.</p> <p>On the website, we will focus on continued improvement navigation, analysis and update of pages identified as needing readability improvements, and continued enhancements to OneCouncil.</p>	<p><b>Communications Uplift Plan:</b> The communications uplift plan has been developed and endorsed by ELT. The Plan focuses on three pillars, including community and brand and communications and crisis management. This includes 15 actions which will be progressed across the remainder of the financial year, including a review of Divercity.</p> <p><b>Website improvements:</b> Several improvements have been made to the website, responding to improved readability and access of information across the following services: Parks and Trees, Social cohesion, diversity and inclusion, and housing and homelessness. We have also published a Trauma-Aware Port Phillip toolkit and an initiative to support easier self-audit assessments for Fair Access in Sport.</p>	Council's website (new)	7.4
			Council's e-newsletter "Divercity" (new)	7.1
			Informing the community	6.8



## Local Library Services

- Maintain level of programming, service delivery and standard of collections.
- Deliver two refurbishment projects and plan for future asset renewal.
- Conduct community engagement to inform the next Library Action Plan, including targeting hard to reach groups in the engagement program.
- Embed social worker in the library role.

## Library Upgrades & Services

Phase one of the St Kilda Library furniture replacement will be delivered in December, relocating key areas and creating more study space. Approximately 50,000 items and shelving will be moved over five days.

## Programs & Staff Development

Library program attendance increased, with Port Phillip Libraries improving from 24th to 16th statewide. Staff participated in a professional development day focused on the Council Plan.

## Library Action Plan

Development will commence early 2026 and will provide: strategic framework to guide the development and delivery of library services, set clear priorities, align initiatives with community needs and organizational objectives and establishes measurable outcomes to ensure the libraries remain innovative, inclusive, and responsive to future trends and community need.

## Community Support

The Library Social Worker has provided direct support to vulnerable community members and staff. A trial partnership with Launch Housing delivered services to families at risk of homelessness or family violence via the Community Connections Room at St Kilda Library.

Local library services

8.6

<b>Sports ovals and outdoor sporting facilities</b>	<p>Key activities for 2025/26 include preparation of the new Sport and Recreation Strategy (due June 2026) and development of the Masterplan for the Australia Post site, which will provide the concept for a new sportsground, open space and supporting infrastructure. These new strategic documents will complement the continued implementation of the Fair Access in Sport Policy, and diversifying community activity via the Outdoor Commercial Recreation Policy and the Fitness Trainer Policy. Council will continue delivery and investment in sports ovals and sports facilities, including completion of six capital works projects currently underway, and commencement of six new capital works projects across the municipality.</p>	<p>The Sport and Recreation Strategy is progressing, with initial community engagement complete and a report released. A Background Report has informed a Key Findings and Opportunities Report to guide strategy development. Fair Access in Sport Policy actions is underway, including a club audit tool, online sessions, and the Women in Sport Network. Permits have been issued to commercial providers and personal trainers for beach tennis, Pilates, and wellness programs. Facility upgrades include Peanut Farm maintenance (due December), Sandridge Masterplan drafting, Lagoon Reserve Pavilion nearing completion, Alma Park East redevelopment prep, multipurpose court upgrades, and final designs for Albert Park Bowls Club, Port Melbourne Bowls Club, and Life Saving Club.</p>	Sports ovals and other outdoor sporting facilities	8.4
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<p>There is an annual budget allocation in the new Plan for Port Phillip for upgrades to playgrounds across the municipality. In 25/26 financial year, upgrades to the playgrounds at Sol Green Reserve in South Melbourne and St Vincent Gardens in Albert Park will be completed; and the St Kilda Adventure Playground enhancement will commence. In addition, there are several planned smaller scale projects to improve the condition or safety of play equipment, including at Ashworth Street Reserve, Middle Park; Alma Park East, St Kilda East; and Jacoby Reserve, St Kilda West. Council's Open Space Maintenance contract specification is also currently under review, with a strong focus on improving the maintenance and playability of Council's playground assets. Council officers are also</p>	<p><b>Sol Green Reserve playground:</b> Construction is complete, Practical Completion was issued on 21 October, and the Reserve is now open to the community. An opening event will be held on site on 25 November 2026.</p> <p><b>St Vincents Gardens Playground:</b> Construction is complete, Practical Completion was certified on 16 October, and the park reopened to the public on 22 October. An</p>	Provision and maintenance of Playgrounds	8.0

undertaking a refresh of Council's existing Play Space Strategy.

opening event will be held on site on 21 November 2026.

### **Open Space and Tree**

**Maintenance Contracts:** Both contracts were endorsed at the 15 October Council meeting. The Open Space Maintenance Contract was awarded to Green by Nature Landscape Services (VIC) Pty Ltd for five years at \$42,935,817 (incl. GST), and the Tree Maintenance Contract to ArborCraft for four years at \$25,060,964.

## **Children**

- Renewal of the Children's Services Policy, including stakeholder engagement, ensuring our commitments are aligned with current community needs. The scope of this work may include young people.
- Uplifting information that is provided to Family Support clients upon referral, to improve knowledge of our service and their rights as service users.
- Supporting St Kilda Playgroup through their relocation from Bubup Nairn to Betty Day Centre.
- Focused support for Elwood Toy Library.
- Integration of marketing initiatives into business-as-usual practice for the Children's Services team.
- Continued work on Phase 2 of the CSIRE project to introduce registration for sessional kindergarten.
- Continued change management to support the children's services infrastructure program, with service relocations in December 2025 for service re-commencement from January 2026 (pending all regulatory requirements being met).
- Promotion to MCH clients of Dad Fit Program for fathers following birth of their baby.\*
- Review of policies, procedures and practices of Council's Childcare Centres, in line with broader sector reforms at the State and Federal level

### **Children's Service Policy**

Planning for renewal is underway for 2026, informed by the State of Children's Services Annual Report due early 2026.

### **Family Support Intake**

A new client brochure and streamlined referral process have been implemented to improve service access and consolidate intake.

### **St Kilda Playgroup**

Relocated to Betty Day Centre, with membership increasing by over 40 since the move.

### **Elwood Toy Library**

Received focused support through meetings, stakeholder connections, and marketing advice to boost visibility.

### **CSIRE Phase 2**

Services for children from birth to 5 years of age (new) 8.2

		<p>On hold pending a functional review informed by stakeholder feedback.</p> <p><b>Children's Services Infrastructure</b> Works to transition Eildon Rd Children's Centre to North St Kilda remain on track for January 2026.</p> <p><b>Dadfit</b> Delivered a successful five-week program at Middle Park Community Centre, engaging 20+ fathers weekly.</p> <p><b>Procedures Review</b> External consultant engaged; review underway and due March 2026.</p>	
<b>Youth</b>	<p>New state government Engage Grant to deliver additional employment pathways and education for young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploration of development of a Youth Strategy in the event this cohort is not included in the Children's Services Policy renewal.</li> <li>• St Kilda Adventure Playground change management in 25/26 for the redevelopment project, and further work to progress Skinners upgrades.</li> <li>• Exploration of funding options for youth programs at St Kilda Festival.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Engage Grant Thrive – Youth Pathways Program</b> Thrive offers free short courses (First Aid, CPR, White Card) and upcoming training in food handling, barista, forklift, and job readiness. Funded by the Victorian Government, it connects youth with local businesses for work experience and entry-level jobs, building confidence and employment pathways.</p> <p><b>Youth Strategy Development</b> A draft strategic framework has been shared for feedback, helping identify service gaps and strengthen planning.</p> <p><b>St Kilda Adventure Playground</b> Project is progressing. Landscaping and clubhouse works will be managed separately,</p>	<p>Services for youth (new) 8.0</p>

slightly shifting timelines. Planning for service relocation is underway.

### **St Kilda Festival Youth Programs Funding**

Following the end of FReeZA funding, budget was reallocated and partnerships formed with other LGAs to maintain festival involvement.

<b>Waste and recycling<sup>1</sup></b>	<p>Council will continue to manage the delivery of this service very closely to ensure the high standards that have been achieved over the last year are maintained. This is especially important as the current contract is currently out to public tender and may result in a change of service supplier.</p> <p>Analysis of various trials to reduce recycling contamination and landfill will be completed over the coming months.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We extended the kerbside collection contract with Cleanaway (CWY) and completed the transition.</li> </ul>	Weekly garbage collection	8.6
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential bin services have improved through better customer service and streamlined processes for delivery and repair</li> </ul>	Regular weekly recycling (new)	8.5
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missed collections have dropped to 9–13 per 10,000 in 2025, with improved accuracy and bin placement driving higher community satisfaction and CSS ratings compared to 2024.</li> </ul>	Bookable hard rubbish (new)	8.7
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the Resource Recovery Centre, new signage clarifies charges and services, supported by targeted staff training.</li> </ul>	Weekly food and green waste collection (new)	8.5
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of recycling contamination and landfill reduction trials is underway to inform future improvements.</li> </ul>	Waste Recovery Centre (the Tip) (new)	8.1
<b>Community &amp; cultural</b>	<p>The Cultural Development Fund Key Organisations stream has received additional funding in the budget to support key organisations. The new round of funding is expected to</p>	<p>We're advancing planning for St Kilda Festival, including Big Festival Sunday and First Nations music</p>	<p>Provision of arts and cultural venues, spaces,</p>	7.9

open by November 2025 for key organisations as well as festivals and events. Work will begin on the new creative & cultural strategy, with extensive stakeholder and community consultation periods prior to it being considered for adoption by Council in line with the 2026/27 budget process.

day, with trader engagement and precinct activations underway. The 2025 St Kilda Film Festival achieved record attendance, box office results, and programming growth—up 30% on 2024—with 2026 planning showing further momentum. We delivered major events including Cars & Culture, Father’s Day Car Show, Connors Run (\$1.3M raised), Melbourne Marathon (24,307 runners), Oktoberfest (7,000 attendees), Around the Bay (6,000 riders), and Burrata Festival (1,200 ticket holders). We completed greening works at St Kilda Triangle, installed new Fitzroy Street lighting, and delivered murals. We funded 24 Cultural Development Fund projects, extended six key organisations with \$15K each, and are progressing affordable creative spaces.

and facilities (new)

Provision of arts and cultural events, programs and activities (new) 8.0

## Appearance of public areas

Council will continue to maintain strong contract management to ensure effective service delivery. Key improvements include:

- Street Cleaning Enhancements: Additional resources for pressure washing in problem areas (e.g. under fruiting trees), with increased auditing around activity centres.
- Improved Communication: Street cleaning rosters will be published on Council websites to help residents track schedules.
- Equipment Upgrades: Larger street sweepers are being replaced with more efficient models.

## Container Deposit Scheme

The cages for our Container Deposit Scheme Cage Trial have been fully rolled out to 80 locations across the municipality. They have seen active and mostly correct use and have been well-received by the community. The trial will run until February.

## Open space and Tree Maintenance

Contract was endorsed at the

Maintenance and appearance of public places 7.5

Litter collection in public areas (new) 7.4

Maintenance and cleaning of strip shopping areas (new) 7.4

Management of graffiti (new) 7.3



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Container Deposit Cages: 80 new cages will be installed on public bin surrounds to support community recycling.</li> <li>Dumped Rubbish Reporting: Automatic responses will be updated to provide clearer feedback, especially when waste can't be identified.</li> <li>Open Space and Tree Maintenance: A new contract will deliver increased services including mulching, weed spraying, tree pruning, and rain garden maintenance.</li> <li>New Auditing Roles: Two new auditors will join the team to ensure contractors meet service standards and resources are well-targeted.</li> </ul>	<p>Council meeting held 15th October and awarded to Green by Nature Landscape Services (VIC) Pty Ltd for the initial term of five years for \$42,935,817 inclusive of GST.</p> <p><b>Pressure Washing</b> In response to councillor's request, an enhanced pressure washing program was introduced in July 2025 across all trade locations. Additional weekly services have been added to the scheduled, and some smaller streets have been incorporated into the ongoing cleaning plan. Monthly audits are conducted, and any performance issues are communicated to contractors through OneCouncil.</p> <p><b>Website Communication Improvements</b> Work to improve communication on the Port Phillip website, specifically providing clearer information about the cleaning schedule will commence in early 2026.</p>	<p>Management of illegally dumped rubbish (new) 7.4</p> <p>Provision and maintenance of parks and gardens (new) 8.1</p> <p>Provision and maintenance of street trees (new) 7.4</p> <p>Street sweeping (new) 7.3</p>
<b>Street lighting and public toilets</b>	<p>Council has allocated significant funds over the Financial Outlook to complete lighting audits and upgrade park and roadside lighting, focusing on the evolving Montague Precinct in Fishermans Bend. Temporary lighting will be relocated as works progress to meet emerging needs.</p> <p>Council will implement the new public toilet cleaning contract and monitor contractor performance to improve standards. Plumbing upgrades along the foreshore will address recurring maintenance issues.</p>	<p><b>Public Toilets</b> Flushing systems have been installed at South Melbourne Life Saving Club and Port Melbourne Beach, reducing blockages and plumbing callouts. Installation is underway across other foreshore toilets. Projects to deliver new and upgraded facilities at Edwards Park and St Kilda Botanic Gardens are progressing, with contracts for design and construction expected</p>	<p>Street lighting (new) 7.8</p> <p>Public Toilets (new) 6.6</p>

As part of the Graffiti Management Plan review, Council will expand prevention initiatives to more public toilets. Delivery of the Public Toilet Plan continues, including new facilities at Edwards Park and progressing design and construction at St Kilda Botanic Gardens to reduce reliance on temporary toilets. The Plan will also be reviewed and updated.

Council has partnered with University of Melbourne students to develop graffiti and vandalism mitigation strategies, including murals and artwork in public toilet spaces to discourage anti-social behaviour.

in November. Upgrades at Port Melbourne Beach and Catani Gardens remain on track for January 2026. A new cleaning contract, which includes public toilets, will be awarded in late November, with contractor performance to be monitored. Graffiti and vandalism mitigation strategies are being integrated into all toilet projects under the Public Toilet Plan.

### Public Lighting

Lighting audits are being finalised for completion in Q3 FY2025/26 to guide priority works. Designs for Catani Gardens upgrades are progressing, and minor lighting improvements are scheduled to begin in the coming months.

**DAMP:** Now been endorsed and will come into force in December 2025. Trial of provision of dog waste bags was supported in August 2025 and will be rolled out for 14 months from November 2025.

### Additional Local Laws position:

Recruitment for temporary additional Local Laws officer nearing completion for onboarding prior to the end of the year.

### Local laws and animal management

The DAMP will be completed this year, with a report on dog waste bag provision going to Council in August. Cat curfew promotion and enforcement of dogs off-lead will continue.

An additional Local Laws officer will support proactive patrols of construction sites, addressing increased complaints about out-of-hours and unpermitted works.

Animal Management (new)	7.8
Enforcement of local laws (new)	7.5

<b>Slashing &amp; weed control</b>	<p>Rigorous contract management continues to ensure high service standards, with seasonal program adjustments as needed. Weed spraying resources will be maintained, following strong results after spring/summer challenges. Council will increase auditing of open space areas—such as roadside slashing and weed control—with two new auditors to ensure contract compliance.</p> <p>A new Open Space and Tree Maintenance contract will commence in April 2026, shifting to frequency-based services like grass mowing to support more consistent maintenance outcomes.</p>	<p><b>Open space and Tree Maintenance</b></p> <p>Contract was endorsed at the Council meeting held 15th October and awarded to Green by Nature Landscape Services (VIC) Pty Ltd for the initial term of five years for \$42,935,817 inclusive of GST. This incorporates slashing and weed control, amongst other open space and tree management provisions.</p>	<p>Roadside slashing and weed control</p>	7.3
<b>Community safety</b>	<p>The Community Safety Plan will be completed in 2025/26, with actions responding to concerns about safety in public places. Community Safety Roundtable recommendations are under review to enhance internal and external partnerships and approaches.</p> <p>The City Amenity team has added a position to continue daily patrols year-round, ensuring people experiencing homelessness are connected with appropriate services and that streets and car parks remain safely accessible. As part of good asset management, Council is renewing the Public Place CCTV system in St Kilda as components reach end of life. This work aligns with annual asset maintenance and includes system improvements, server renewal, and camera replacements. Council is also liaising with Josh Burns MP's office on delivery of the \$1.5 million CCTV funding commitment from the 2025 federal election.</p>	<p><b>Community Safety Plan</b></p> <p>The draft Community Safety Plan was released for community feedback at the Council meeting on 17 September. Community engagement will run from 6 October to 2 November. The draft will be presented for Councillor endorsement on 10 December and seeks to improve perceptions of safety across the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and maintain safe, accessible, welcoming, and climate resilient public spaces.</li> <li>• Improve communication and deliver programs which support a better-informed and engaged community.</li> <li>• Empower and support communities to thrive, collaborate and connect.</li> </ul>	<p>Safety in public areas – during the day (new)</p> <p>Safety in public areas – in and around your local activity centre (new)</p> <p>Safety in public areas – at night (new)</p>	<p>8.3</p> <p>7.6</p> <p>6.5</p>

		<b>Public Place CCTV</b> The project is currently in the tender evaluation stage. An application for Federal Government funding for CCTV, in response to Federal Government election commitment has been submitted.		
<b>Environmental sustainability</b>	Work with partners to install a public fast charging EV station in South Melbourne, facilitate private kerbside EV chargers and public utility pole mounted EV chargers across the municipality. Assist the EcoCentre with establishment in their new purpose-built facility and continued partnership in their programs.Draft the Water Sensitive City Plan, including stormwater pollution reduction and alternative water sources. Focus on decarbonisation for the organisation and the community. Deliver Year 1 of the Climate Ready Communities project, particularly the establishment of community groups. Implement and evaluate the first year of the Environmentally Sustainable Design Planning Compliance Officer Trial.	<b>Electric Vehicle Program</b> Kerbside EV charger pilot has 18 chargers and is a MAVLab Innovation Awards finalist. Three pole-mounted charger licences sign installation due December 2025. More sites for fast and pole-mounted chargers under review.  <b>EcoCentre</b> EcoCentre reached Practical Completion, team moved in and won the Energy Category at the Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards.  <b>Water Sensitive City Plan</b> Water balance modelling complete; draft plan for internal review February 2026.  <b>Decarbonisation</b> Climate Ready Communities groups formed. ESD compliance trial progressing; non-compliance letters issued and resolved.	Meeting environmental responsibilities	7.2
<b>Ageing and accessibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continued regular engagement with community advisory committees, including OPAC, to address challenges in the aged care system.</li><li>Formal advocacy to MAV, State and Federal Governments to highlight the level of need and lack of timely local support services.</li></ul>	<b>Aged Care</b> <b>Preparations continued in the lead up to the introduction of the new Aged Care Act in November 2025. Continued to deliver Community Connector Service</b>	Support services for the elderly/seniors  Services for people with a disability (new)	7.5  7.2

- Focus on local services and programs that meet older people's individual needs, including case management, health and wellness sessions, and proactive support.
- Provide honest and transparent information to clients about access challenges and Council's limited influence over systemic issues.
- Continued delivery of the Community Connector service to help residents navigate the Commonwealth Aged Care system and understand available Council support.
- Review and implement the new Accessibility Action Plan and improvements to the Village Model.
- Strengthen the social worker role in libraries to support vulnerable communities and raise awareness of Council services, including housing nomination rights.

**and held information session with COTA and other sector partners. Undertook a review of the Village Model.**

#### **Accessibility Action Plan**

A draft Accessibility Action Plan will be presented to Councillors in November 2025 ahead of community consultation in early 2026. To meet legislative obligations under the Disability Act 2006, the plan includes four key objectives:

- Reduce barriers to accessing goods, services and facilities
- Reduce barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment
- Promote inclusion and participation in the community
- Achieve tangible changes in attitudes and practices that discriminate against people with disability

#### **Homelessness & Affordable Housing Strategy**

A draft strategy was endorsed on 17 September for stage 2 community engagement, commencing 6 October. It outlines five objectives and 51 actions:

- Strengthen community responses to homelessness
- Enable access to social housing
- Improve access to affordable and key worker housing

Services for the disadvantaged (new)

6.6

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support stability in the private rental market</li> <li>• Strengthen places that support housing stability and homelessness solutions</li> </ul>		
<b>Roads and transport<sup>1</sup></b>	<p>Council has allocated an additional \$9 million to replace degraded road pavement and wearing course, guided by condition prioritisation. This will enable thousands of square metres of additional pavement replacement annually over the Financial Outlook.</p> <p>Council will continue an educative and collaborative approach with developers and service authorities under the Road Management Act and updated Road Management Plan (2025) to minimise impacts on the road network.</p> <p>Council also continues to work with the Department of Transport &amp; Planning to address maintenance concerns on main roads across the City.</p>	<p><b>Road Renewal:</b> Four works packages have been awarded for the road resurfacing program, with works commencing in September. All works packages are expected to be completed by the end of November 2025.</p> <p>Park St Road Construction is complete with only traffic signalling works remaining to be undertaken by the Department of Transport and Planning and the road has been reopened. The procurement process for upgrade works to Argyle St has commenced.</p> <p>Detailed design for the remaining road projects is all on track for completion this year</p>	<p>Maintenance and repair of sealed local roads</p> <p>Major arterial roads (new)</p>	<p>7.2</p> <p>7.1</p>
<b>Footpaths</b>	<p>Continued rollout of the footpath renewal program, and delivery of the Road Management Plan, with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair and replacement of damaged or uneven footpaths.</li> <li>• Tree root management to prevent recurring damage.</li> <li>• Upgrades in high-traffic and high-growth areas, particularly where footpath conditions impact accessibility or safety</li> </ul>	<p><b>Footpath Renewal Program:</b> Three works packages for footpath renewals have been awarded, two of which have commenced and the last is due to commence in October with all renewal works to be completed by the end of November. The Jackson St footpath project is at risk due to a development on Fitzroy St that may impact the ability to undertake construction work as planned. Options are currently</p>	<p>Footpath maintenance and repairs (new)</p>	<p>7.1</p>



		being investigated for this. All other remaining projects are on track for design and construction, respectively.		
<b>Traffic management</b>	<p>Council continues to strengthen its relationship with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and improve documentation of shared issues to support better community outcomes. Advocacy to the State for priority project delivery will increase. An internal transport on-road events working group will be established to help resolve event-related traffic management issues.</p> <p>The Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan will be developed and shared. Pedestrian, bike and Local Area Traffic Management projects will be delivered as planned, aligned with the Integrated Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Communication of existing strategies, Council priorities, active projects and advocacy items to the State Government will be improved.</p>	<p>Two, bi-monthly meetings are coordinated with DTP and Council officers on operational and strategic transport matters. Internal working group established across disciplines to discuss traffic and parking matters relating to Grand Prix and other major events. A draft Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan will be presented to councillors in December, ahead of community engagement and formal adoption in the first half of the 2026 calendar year. Local area traffic management project pages to be updated on Council's website, with consideration being given to ultimately mapping projects to enhance communication.</p>	Local traffic management	7.4
<b>Bike and shared paths</b>	<p>Establishment and ongoing development of internal Bike Infrastructure Working Group to identify existing gaps and opportunities and actively prioritise Council resources toward bike improvement projects.</p> <p>Complete Park Street Streetscape Improvement Project and monitor/ evaluate installed program for installed projects to determine benefits.</p> <p>Beacon Road project Detailed Design</p> <p>Inkerman Street Safe Travel Corridor commence construction.</p> <p>Identify new projects for bike program – as part of the Internal Bike Infrastructure working Group and take to Council.</p>	<p><b>Internal bike infrastructure working group:</b> established to consider future investment opportunities – options being refined for further discussion and prioritisation.</p> <p><b>Bike Infrastructure Program:</b> Inkerman Street project on track with detailed design and DTP approvals currently progressing.</p> <p><b>Park Street:</b> Bike Link is c.90% complete subject to minor civil works and contingent on DTP signal changes.</p>	Bikes and shared paths (new)	7.3

		<b>Beacon Road:</b> Detailed design of Beacon Road project is close to being complete, with a road safety audit being undertaken on the design.		
<b>Parking management and enforcement</b>	<p>Establish a Parking Working Group, aligned with the On-Road Events Group, to coordinate parking issues across teams. The digital permit rollout continues, alongside a strategic review for Fishermans Bend and implementation of Domain Parking Report amendments.</p> <p>Maintain resourcing for major events like the Grand Prix.</p> <p>Parking officers can now report signage issues more efficiently to ensure enforcement. The proposed Local Law will help address concerns about caravans, boats and trailers</p>	<p><b>Internal working group:</b> established across disciplines to discuss traffic and parking matters relating to Grand Prix and other major events.</p> <p><b>Caravans. Boats and Trailers:</b> Engagement has commenced on the Local Law around caravans, boats and trailers parking in unrestricted areas. Findings will come back to Council for review in early 2026.</p>	<p>Provision of parking facilities/ spaces (new)</p> <p>Parking enforcement (new)</p>	<p>7.2</p> <p>7.2</p>
<b>Municipal emergency management<sup>1</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table the Port Phillip MEMP at a Council meeting to improve community visibility.</li> <li>• Finalise an Emergency Management Policy to support Council-wide response, relief and recovery.</li> <li>• Develop a recovery approach and procedures for Disaster Recovery Funding.</li> <li>• Deliver training to strengthen Council's capacity for Secondary Impact Assessments.</li> <li>• Review, revise and exercise the Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre procedure.</li> <li>• Conduct a large-scale exercise to assess emergency preparedness.</li> <li>• Develop a response and recovery approach for non-Emergency Act incidents.</li> <li>• Partner with University of Melbourne students to design graffiti mitigation strategies using public art.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Municipal Emergency Management Plan:</b> The Southern Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee endorsed the plan in August, pending some amendments. The amendments are being finalised, and the plan will be uploaded to Council website by 21 November.</p> <p><b>Critical Incident Management Capability Enhancement Project:</b> Project underway to strengthen Council's capability to prepare, respond and coordinate community recovery from a crisis including major emergencies and disasters.</p>	<p>Council's emergency preparedness and response (new)</p>	<p>7.8</p>

<b>Community consultation &amp; engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise the Community Engagement Policy and Guideline.</li> <li>• Implement the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.</li> <li>• Standardise Have Your Say page layouts.</li> <li>• Improve report-back timeframes and clarify how feedback shaped outcomes.</li> <li>• Clearly define community influence at project outset.</li> <li>• Continue staff upskilling across Council.</li> <li>• Create templates and tools to support consistent engagement practices.</li> </ul>	<b>Community Engagement Policy and Strategic commitment</b> The draft Community Engagement Policy and draft Strategic Commitment have been consulted on (Sept/Oct 2025). Feedback has been taken on board and the documents updated accordingly. Both are due to be presented at the December 3 Council Meeting for adoption.	Community consultation & engagement	6.9
<b>Planning &amp; building permits</b>	Council will continue to work to improve service delivery timelines and ensure we are responsive to community requests and complaints. . .	Officers have developed a survey for planning customers to understand concerns and opportunities to improve service delivery. .	Planning & building permits	6.3
<b>Planning &amp; housing developments<sup>1</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing a dedicated approach to planning for upgrades and development within our activity centres, precincts and significant places.</li> <li>• Delivery of the Design and Development Awards</li> <li>• Commence St Kilda, and Balaclava Structure Plans</li> <li>• Delivery of Public Spaces Strategy actions</li> <li>• Development of Urban Forest Precinct Plans</li> <li>• Develop a Living Streets program for improving local streets</li> </ul>	<b>Design and Development Awards:</b> Planning has kicked off for the 2026 Awards.	Town Planning policies (new)	7.1
		<b>St Kilda and Balaclava Structure Plans:</b> Business cases are in development for these structure plans.	The design of public spaces (new)	7.5
		<b>Public Space Strategy Actions:</b> Expansion of Pakington Street Reserve, St Kilda	The appearance and quality of new developments	7.3
		<b>Urban forest precinct plans:</b> Urban Forest and species-specific tree management plans are progressing across multiple neighbourhoods.	The protection of local heritage (new)	7.2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree planting is ahead of target, with planning underway for the 2026 season.</li> <li>• Feasibility studies are assessing canopy potential</li> </ul>		

		<p>and design options for priority streets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-supported designs are underway for a new nature strip and garden plots.</li> <li>• Biodiversity planting and new signage are enhancing habitat and community engagement in open spaces.</li> </ul>		
<b>Business / community development/ tourism</b>	Great Places and Precincts will start 2025/26 actions by August. Special rate for South Melbourne and renewal for Port Melbourne will boost trader-led activities. What's On will promote businesses and precinct initiatives. Creative and cultural strategy, focused on business and precinct uplift, is planned for adoption with the 2026/27 budget.	<b>Great Places and Precincts:</b> The program has continued to deliver short term projects and amenity uplifts identified for delivery across the following areas of Fitzroy St, St Kilda, Balaclava, Domain, Fishermans Bend and South Melbourne.	Council's activities promoting local economic development	7.4
<b>Advocacy</b>	<p>Building on recent successes, the coming year will focus on expanding and deepening our advocacy efforts. Key initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Advocacy Campaigns: Launch targeted campaigns around Tier 1 priorities to ensure high-impact issues receive focused attention and community support.</li> <li>• Greater Participation in Networks and Memberships: Strengthen relationships with regional and national advocacy bodies to amplify our voice and share best practices.</li> <li>• Enhanced Storytelling: Improve integration of good news stories with council's social media platforms to boost visibility, celebrate wins, and foster community pride.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Advocacy Campaigns</b> Planning is underway for targeted campaigns aligned with Tier 1 priorities, set to roll out over eight months to elevate key issues and mobilise support.</p> <p><b>Network Engagement</b> We've deepened ties with advocacy bodies like MAV and the M9 group, boosting influence, enabling knowledge-sharing, and strengthening our voice in regional discussions.</p> <p><b>Storytelling</b> Advocacy and grant achievements are being amplified, with 39 stories published this year and increased engagement across council channels.</p>	Council's representation, lobbying and advocacy by precinct (new)	6.8

<b>Population growth</b>	<p>In FY 2025/26, there will be greater emphasis on community engagement to deliver strategic planning priorities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing the City of Port Phillip Housing Strategy 2024–2039, with focus on the Residential Zones Review.</li> <li>• Developing new structure plans for St Kilda and Balaclava activity centres to guide growth, infrastructure investment and land use.</li> <li>• Strengthening messaging on Council’s role in meeting State housing targets while promoting sustainable, inclusive urban growth. Officers will also explore innovative ways to showcase developments that align with planning objectives and demonstrate high-quality, responsive housing density increases.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Homelessness &amp; Affordable Housing Strategy</b></p> <p>A draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy was endorsed on 17 September for stage 2 community engagement, which will commence on 6 October. The draft strategy outlines five objectives and 51 actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: Strengthen community responses to homelessness</li> <li>• Objective 2: Enable access to social housing</li> <li>• Objective 3: Improve access to affordable and key worker housing</li> <li>• Objective 4: Support stability in the private rental market</li> <li>• Objective 5: Strengthen places that support housing stability and homelessness solutions</li> </ul>	Planning for population growth	6.8
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**Legend**       Above Metro Average       Matching Metro Average       Below Metro Average

We conducted our Community Satisfaction Survey in May 2025. To view the full results and report [visit our website](#).

<sup>1</sup> Satisfaction area is captured as a service performance measure in our CEO reports. To view past reports, visit our [CEO Reports page](#).



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