

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. How can I make a submission? Where can I find the documents?

Darebin City Council is currently planning its long, medium and short term future through a comprehensive strategic planning process. We are asking the people of Darebin to get involved and share their views on our strategic initiatives for the coming four years, our 21/22 budget and our 10-year financial plan.

While this is underway, a comprehensive community-led process to design Darebin's first-ever 20-year Community Vision is taking place in the background.

You can find the documents at www.yoursaydarebin.com.au/deliveringforourcommunity

Q2. What is a Community Vision?

The Community Vision sets our horizon 20 years into the future, on the community we want to be in 2041.

Under the new *Local Government Act 2020*, a community vision must be informed and shaped via a deliberative process, meaning the community is heavily involved of shaping the vision.

The Community Vision is currently being developed by the Darebin Deliberative Panel and will be released in late June 2021.

Q3. What is the Darebin Deliberative Panel? Who are the members?

The Darebin Deliberative Panel has been formed to ensure the Community Vision, and the key Plans have strong input from local people.

The Darebin Deliberative Panel is formed by 39 residents and business owners in Darebin. The group was selected by independent experts to ensure a panel of individuals of different ages, genders, nationalities and experiences ultimately design the Community Vision.

The Panel's next task is to hear and consider all the feedback from this community engagement period, and to ensure the draft Plans reflect this feedback. The Panel will finalise the draft Plans, that will then be presented to Council for consideration on 28 June 2021.

Q4. What is the Council Plan?

A Council Plan is a four year strategic plan that sets the priorities and key actions for Council. The Council Plan and its annual action plans are also used to monitor and report back to our community on how we are going.

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires a Council Plan to be in place by 31 October 2021 and take effect from 1 July 2021.

Q5. What is the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan?

Our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is embedded in our draft Council Plan. Under law, the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, we have a responsibility to protect, promote and improve the public health and wellbeing of our community.

One way we do this is to ensure our Council Plan – our key strategic plan – includes actions to enable residents the opportunity to improve their health and wellbeing. We believe a transparent and streamlined approach is best, so rather than have a separate plan for this, our Council Plan has critical actions for the planning - and collaborative delivery with other health providers - of health and wellbeing initiatives.

Q6. What is the Financial Plan?

The Financial Plan 2021-2031 is a new requirement introduced through the *Local Government Act 2020*. It ensures the journey we are on towards achieving our Community Vision 2041 can be funded and sustained. To do this, the Financial Plan provides 10 year ahead, financially sustainable projections of how our Council Plan actions may be funded.

The Financial Plan must be in place by 31 October 2021, and takes effect from 1 July 2021.

Q7. What is the Budget?

Our Budget sets out how we will fund the first year of actions of the Council Plan, including all the current services and facilities we provide. It is vital we have the right structures and finances in place to achieve these actions. We will report back regularly on how we are going – and provide an Annual Report at the end of each financial year.

The Budget 2021-2022 must be in place by 31 October 2021, and takes effect from 1 July 2021.

Q8. Why is this process different from previous years?

We now have a new law we operate under. The *Local Government Act 2020* sets a new approach for all local government in Victoria, that aims to bring all communities back into the core of local government and the services we provide. This requires deeper engagement, with more voices heard that truly represent the communities we serve – in a process called deliberative engagement. The Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan (and upcoming 10 year Asset Plan) are all required to be developed through deliberative engagement with communities.

We embrace and support this approach, as it has allowed us to bring the people of Darebin closer to our strategic planning. Our community is able to create its own vision of the Darebin it wants to become by 2041.

To find out more about the new Local Government Act, click [HERE](#)

<https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/local-government-act-2020>

Q9. I know some other people that want to give their feedback, but English is not their first language. How can they get involved?

We are providing information in our 12 key community languages: Arabic, Chinese (simplified), Greek, Hindi, Italian, Macedonian, Nepali, Punjabi, Somali, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese.

Contact the Multilingual Translation Line to speak to someone in your language 03 8470 8470.

Q10. Who else are you hearing from?

We understand and value how diverse our community is. We also understand many members of our community have not always had the means or opportunities to have their voices heard.

Through this period, we will also be focusing on engaging with our First Nations Peoples – including the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Corporation, our multicultural communities, our faith leaders, our community organisations, our place based disadvantage communities, our women, our LGBTQIA+ communities, our Creative industries, our young people – including the Darebin Youth Citizen's Jury, and our businesses – many of which have borne the financial and personal impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic.

We want to hear from as many of our people as possible, to make sure our planning, and spending is the true fit for all our community. And we don't want to leave anyone behind.

Q11. What will happen with all the feedback you receive?

All the feedback, ideas, submissions, and a summary of what was spoken about at the hearing, will be provided to our Darebin Deliberative Panel, to take on board. The Panel was formed by 39 Darebin community members - who are truly representative of the Darebin's diverse community – for this purpose. It is the same Panel that developed the Community Vision 2041.

The Panel will use all the feedback to inform finalise the draft Plans, and recommend these to Council for adoption on 28 June 2021.

Q15. How do I make a formal written submission? Will I have to speak at the hearing committee?

Even though it's described as 'formal', we are just asking you to write to us with your ideas, and your feedback, on these draft plans. You can choose to speak to your submission at a hearing on Thursday 20 May at 6pm, but you don't have to.

Q16. What happens after that?

Our Darebin Deliberative Panel will read and discuss all the feedback received through the engagement process. Their job is to infuse that feedback into the draft Plans – and make sure the Council Plan (including the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan), the Financial Plan, and the Annual Budget reflect the needs of the community.

The Panel will provide these final draft Plans to Council, for Council to consider at the Council Meeting on 28 June 2021. Once adopted, these Plans will be used to guide Council's actions and spending for the Darebin community.

DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY