

E oho rangatahi, maranga mai!

Rangatahi Action Plan 2025-28

**A youth, community, and Council
collaboration to make Kirikiriroa a
better place for all young people.**



**Hamilton
City Council**

Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa



Contents

Foreword from the Mayor	4
Messages from Councillors	5
Vision	6
Scope	7
How did we get here?	8
Rangatahi Action Plan Goals	11
Goal One	13
Goal Two	15
Goal Three	17
Goal Four	18
Goal Five	19
Implementation	21

He kupu naa te Manu Kaahui

Foreword from the Mayor: Rangatahi Action Plan 2025

Hamilton Kirikiriroa is the fastest growing city in the country. We also have the largest population of young people - more than a third of our residents are under 25. Many of them are children, born and raised here but a number are young people who are choosing to be here.

I love that young people are choosing to build their lives here, due to the lifestyle, diverse work opportunities, fabulous amenities and great location the city offers.

As city leaders we want to ensure our city caters to the needs of our youth, now and in the future. Hamilton City Council has long recognised the importance of engaging with our youth and supporting their aspirations for a thriving future in Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

Youth bring an energy, creativity, and passion that enriches our city and makes it an increasingly desirable place to live, work, and grow for everyone. That is why we listened carefully when young people told us that a new plan, relevant to today, was needed.

In June 2024, the Council approved the development of a new Rangatahi Action Plan. This builds on the Hamilton Rangatahi Youth Action Plan 2016–2018 and the work of the previous Youth Council, which provided valuable insights into the needs and aspirations of young people in our city. This new Rangatahi Action Plan has been created in partnership with the people it seeks to serve – our youth, in all their diversity, capability and dreams.

Engaging with over 1200 rangatahi in person and online, key interest areas quickly emerged: Our young people want vibrant “third spaces”—places beyond school and work; more activities and opportunities for connection with each other, especially in the central city; and improved transportation, safety, and economic wellbeing.

They are also open to learning more about civic responsibility and leadership but need better options for engaging with Council. Rangatahi particularly emphasised their desire for spaces where they can belong, express their cultural identity, and lead youth-driven initiatives. These aspirations have formed the foundation of this plan.

As this new Rangatahi Action Plan is put into action, we thank our young people for shaping its vision and purpose. This plan reflects their aspirations and alongside that Hamilton City Council’s commitment to enabling their growth, wellbeing, and success in how we develop the city.

Together, we are committed to creating a city where our youth feel empowered, connected, and celebrated, as vital contributors to the vibrancy of Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

Paula Southgate
**Mayor of Hamilton
Kirikiriroa**
"H-Town"



He kupu naa ngaa Manukura

Messages from Councillors

Message from Councillor Kesh:

"As Chair for Community and Natural Environment, I'm proud to support the development of our city's Rangatahi Action Plan in partnership with the youth sector. This collaborative effort brings together diverse ideas and perspectives, creating a unified roadmap to track meaningful outcomes and ensure a brighter future for our young people."



Message from Councillor Anna:

"This plan, developed with young people, promises to create more opportunities for recreation, creativity, social connection and fun. Increased participation and a greater sense of belonging in Kirikiriroa will be our success. Let's bring our promises to life!"



Message from Councillor Louise:

"Like many other young people in our city, I moved to Kirikiriroa at 18 to go to university and to start a career, and at 29, I was elected to Hamilton City Council. To have a Rangatahi Action Plan written by young people for young people cements our commitment to both young people now, and the young people of the future - you deserve to be reflected in our city, to feel you belong in our city, and to imagine a future for yourself here."





He Whakakitenga Vision

**A Kirikiriroa Hamilton where
all rangatahi thrive**

**Ki te kahore he
whakakitenga, ka
ngaro te iwi**

**Without foresight or
vision, the people
will be lost**

Te Hookaitanga

Scope

This plan is a commitment between Council, action partners, and rangatahi - to make our city even better for all youth in Kirikiriroa. It's about ensuring Hamilton's 12 to 24 year olds are supported.

Kirikiriroa is the most youthful city in Aotearoa, with the highest population of under 25 year olds ¹.



Our youth community is diverse, home to more than...

170 ethnic groups

- our population is 58.5% European, 25.4% Maaori, 22.8% Asian, 6.8% Pacific Peoples, and 2.7% Middle Eastern/Latin American/African¹.

The Rangatahi Action Plan was created by asking rangatahi (12-24 year olds) across the city: What would make Kirikiriroa an even better city for you - a city where you can thrive?

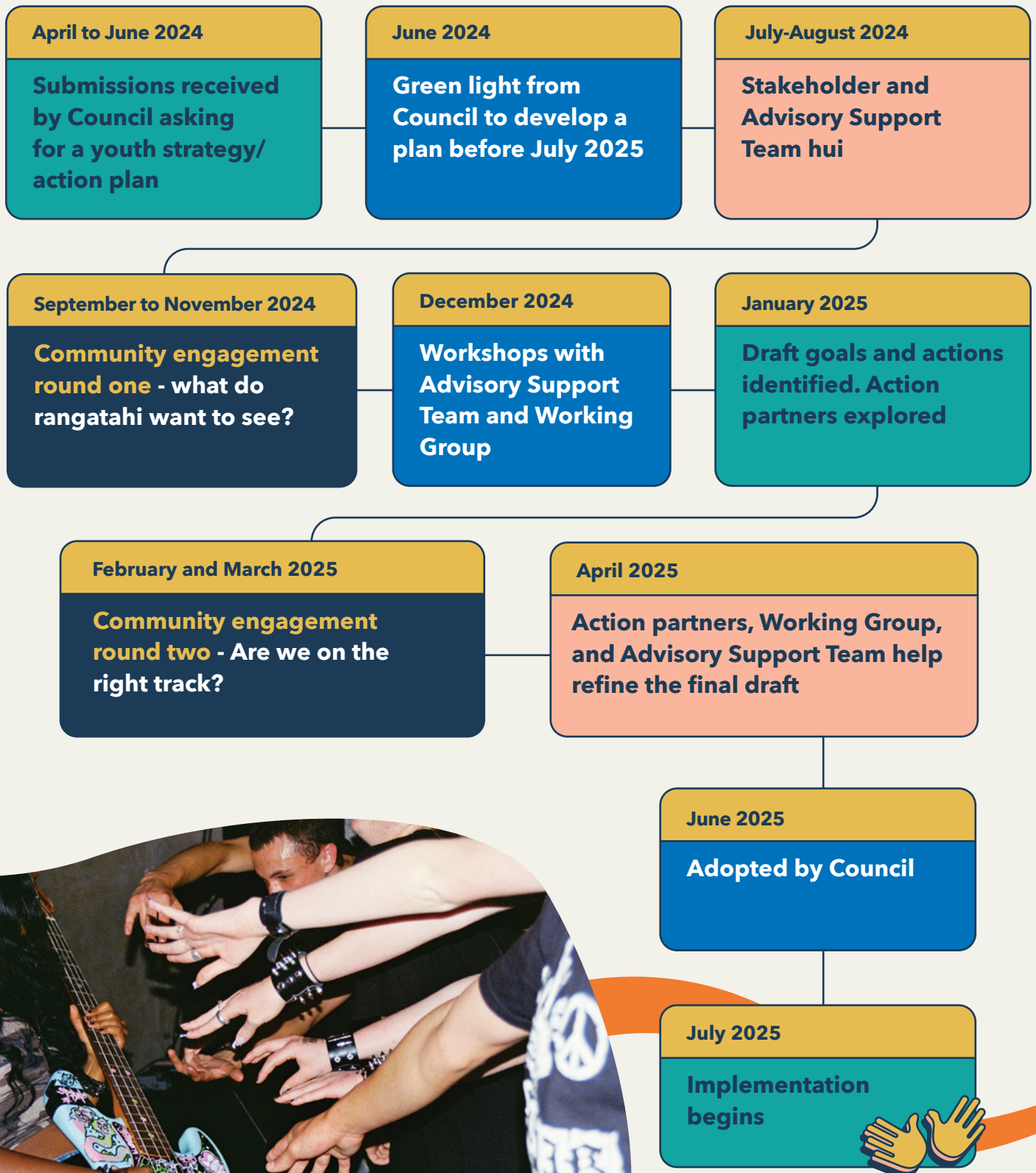
We gathered ideas from rangatahi through social media, online surveys, events, and by turning up in the places they like to be. With the help of our Rangatahi Working Group and Advisory Support Team, we turned these ideas into the goals and actions of this plan.

This plan is just one part of all the work happening in Kirikiriroa to support our young people. It is also version one, because we know that as a city, we need to be flexible to respond to changes across our rangatahi community.

This plan will be delivered from 2025 - 2028 with a full review planned for 2028.

¹ Census 2023 <https://rep.infometrics.co.nz/hamilton-city/census/indicator/ethnicity?compare=new-zealand&census=hamilton-city>

How did we get here?



How the Rangatahi Action Plan fits with Hamilton City Council's purpose and priorities:

Hamilton City Council's purpose is to improve the wellbeing of Hamiltonians. The vision of the Rangatahi Action Plan is to make Kiriikiriroa a better city for all young people, and supports Council's existing priorities, strategies, and plans:

Priority one



Shaping a city that's easy to live in

Ahuahungia teetehi taaone e tau ai te noho ki roto

Priority two



Shaping a city where our people thrive

Ahuahungia teetehi taaone e puaawai ai ngaa taangata katoa

Priority three



Shaping a central city where people love to be

Ahuahungia te pokapuu o teetehi taaone e arohaina ai e te tangata

Priority four



Shaping a fun city with lots to do

Ahuahungia teetehi taaone ngahau e tini ai ngaa kaupapa papai hei whai

Priority five

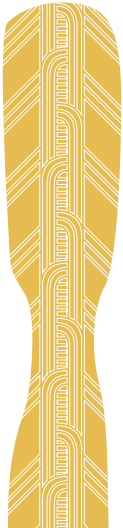


Shaping a green city

Ahuahungia teetehi taaone tiaki taiao

He Pou Manawa Ora - Pillars of Wellbeing

He Pou Manawa Ora - Pillars of Wellbeing is Kirikiriroa Hamilton's strategy for creating a city where everyone, including rangatahi, can stand proud in our shared history. The voices of our youth matters, and every action we take is guided by the Pou (pillars) that support and inspire our community to grow stronger together. It's about helping youth feel connected, empowered, and ready to shape the future of our city.



Pillar of History **He Pou Manawa Ora**

A pillar that reminds us of the value of our unique history of language, people, place and our commitment to acknowledge and respect our uniquely different values and qualities.



Pillar of Unity **He Pou Toorangapuu Maaori**

A pillar that gives recognition to Maaori values, knowledge and aspirations. Maaori are equal partners and contributors to the wellbeing of people, place, environment and our shared future.



Pillar of Prosperity **He Pou Manawa Taurikura**

A pillar that provides safety, security and opportunity for individuals, whaanau and communities to live their best lives and to prosper spiritually and economically.



Pillar of Restoration **He Pou Manawa Taiao**

A pillar that reminds us of our connection to, reliance on, and responsibility to care for the natural and physical world.

Eetehi atu kaupapa e whai waahi ana ki teenei mahere rautaki - Other Hamilton City Council strategies and plans that have guided this plan:

- Community and Social Development Strategy - He Rautaki Whakawhanake Hapori 2021-26
- 2024-34 Long-Term Plan - Ka hua. Ka puaawai. Ka ora.
- Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa
- Access Hamilton Strategy - Ara Kootuitui Kirikiriroa 2022
- Libraries Strategy - Kia oho te mauri o Kirikiriroa 2023-2033
- Play Strategy - tuuhura te tini taonga o Kirikiriroa hei whakapakari tinana, wairua, hinengaro 2019-2039
- Community Facilities Strategy 2020
- Nature in the City Strategy - Te Wao nui o Kirikiriroa 2020-2050
- Papa Ahuareka o Kirikiriroa - Hamilton Open Spaces Strategy 2023-2053
- Welcoming Plan 2022
- Disability Policy Action Plan 2022-2025
- Aquatics Strategy - Te Rautaki Hoopua Wai o Kirikiriroa 2021-2031



Rangatahi Action Plan Ngaa Whaainga

Goals

When we asked Hamilton's rangatahi what would help you thrive, you gave us clear goals: a city where you feel safe, heard, supported, connected, and is full of opportunities. This plan is built around your vision - your goals for a better Hamilton.

Goal one

Our city has the right spaces for me

"I like how Hamilton has places where people can browse shops and share kai together..."

"I like all the street art around the city, makes it fun and interesting."

Goal two

Our city is fun with lots for me to do

"I like how Hamilton has all the gigs for our youth (and) events for them to enjoy..."

"I like how Hamilton has great coffee spots, beautiful gardens and top tier people. I love visiting Made on the weekends (and the zoo)!!"

Goal three

Our city is easy for me to get around

"I really like the bus routes and how much freedom that gives me and my brothers"

"I like the traffic calming and safety measures put in place - it makes it easier to walk and cycle, and more eco-friendly"

Goal four

Our city is safe for me to live and play in

"I like how Hamilton has many greenspaces, tree-lined streets, cycle lanes and walkways/cycle routes along the riverside."

"I like the bike paths into the city. It makes it much safer. It also enables kids/teens to get places without parental support (cars). More!"

Goal five

Our city values my voice and future

"I like how Hamilton has many different nationalities living in our town!"

"I like that we have people under 35 on Council!"

Goal one

Our city has the right spaces for me.

Outcome

All of Hamilton's rangatahi have access to safe, inclusive, and engaging spaces that support their own needs and aspirations.

Action 1

Review existing rangatahi facilities across the city (including youth event spaces) and identify opportunities for new/improved rangatahi hubs.

Status:
New

Timing:
2025-26

Action 2

Identify new rangatahi friendly play and recreational opportunities in the city's green and blue spaces.

Status:
Enhance

Timing:
2026-27

Action 3

Provide opportunity for rangatahi input into the development of central city projects.

Status:
New

Timing:
Ongoing

Action 4

Work proactively with key stakeholder groups and rangatahi to identify appropriate solutions for central city venues (noting the need for spaces like Mesoverse).

Status:
New

Timing:
2025-26

Action 5

Support the creative expression of rangatahi across the city, including in the display of the history of Kirikiriroa, the Waikato awa, and other culturally significant sites.

Status:
New

Timing:
Ongoing



Goal two

Our city is fun with lots for me to do.

Outcome

All of Hamilton's rangatahi have access to a diverse range of enjoyable and engaging activities that cater to their own needs and interests.

Action 1

Promote Nature in the City events and initiatives to encourage more rangatahi participation.

Status:
Enhance

Timing:
Ongoing

Action 2

Design and deliver a rangatahi communications plan to provide better access for rangatahi to organisations, services, activities, and events; and use communication platforms that are relevant for youth.

Status:
Enhance

Timing:
Ongoing

Action 3

Support recreational sports activities for rangatahi across the city, providing options that cater to each area's unique rangatahi demographic.

Status:
Enhance

Timing:
2027-28

Action 4

Identify funding options to establish a rangatahi fund for art, events, and other creative outlets, and consider options for a Maaori art specific fund that promotes the city's history and cultural connections.

Status:
New

Timing:
2025-26

Action 5

Increase promotion, support, and participation in local rangatahi arts programmes and ensure platforms for Maaori cultural expression.

Status:
Enhance

Timing:
Ongoing

Action 6

Ensure there are spaces and programmes within our libraries where rangatahi feel engaged and included.

Status:
Enhance

Timing:
Ongoing

Action 7

Involve rangatahi in developing and delivering key cultural Council events, including Waitangi Day and Matariki celebrations.

Status:
New

Timing:
2025-26

Action 8

Establish a mentoring programme for rangatahi event organisers.

Status:
New

Timing:
2025-26



Goal three

Our city is easy for me to get around.

Outcome

All of Hamilton's rangatahi can easily navigate the city through a variety of safe, affordable, and accessible transport options.

Action 1

Promote feedback opportunities and encourage rangatahi to contribute to changes, upgrades, and accessibility improvements to bus and multimodal transport services.

Status:
New

Timing:
Ongoing

Action 2

Promote the Flex Bus service to rangatahi.

Status:
New

Timing:
2025-26

Action 3

Continue a city-wide programme of establishing new and upgrading existing bus shelters.

Status:
Continue

Timing:
Ongoing

Action 4

Promote and educate rangatahi on public and sustainable transport options.

Status:
New

Timing:
Ongoing

Action 5

Support transport providers to work with rangatahi to develop and deliver passenger experience programmes.

Status:
Enhance

Timing:
Ongoing

Goal four

Our city is safe for me to live and play in.

Outcome

All of Hamilton's rangatahi feel safe while out and about in Kirikiriroa.

Action 1

Continue to prioritise security around transport hubs, Council services, and in the central city.

Status:
Continue

Timing:
Ongoing

Action 2

Involve rangatahi in city lighting review forums and decision-making.

Status:
New

Timing:
2026-27

Action 3

Improve visibility of safety measures within the city, including City Safe.

Status:
Enhance

Timing:
Ongoing

Action 4

Explore research opportunities to better understand what safety means for rangatahi across the city, in order to inform future actions in this area.

Status:
New

Timing:
2026-27

Action 5

Work with Community Houses and Hubs that focus on supporting rangatahi to identify solutions to safety concerns when they arise.

Status:
Enhance

Timing:
Ongoing

Goal five

Our city values my voice and future.



Outcome

All of Hamilton's rangatahi know about and have a voice in things that impact them, and see their future here.

Action 1

Establish a Youth Council to support youth input into Council, community projects, and to facilitate the progress of this Rangatahi Action Plan.

Status:
New

Timing:
2025-26

Action 2

Establish a youth portal as a 'one stop shop' web page with links to events, opportunities, consultations, and spaces relevant for local rangatahi.

Status:
Enhance

Timing:
2025-26

Action 3

Seek approval to include a new category in the Civic Awards that specifically celebrates the contribution and achievements of rangatahi.

Status:
New

Timing:
2026-27



Action 4

Actively promote and encourage rangatahi participation in local and parliamentary elections.

Status:
New

Timing:
2025-26

Action 5

Celebrate Youth Week annually in collaboration with the youth sector network through events, social media, and connection opportunities.

Status:
New

Timing:
Annually

Action 6

Create networking opportunities for rangatahi to connect with local entrepreneurs and business to encourage their potential.

Status:
New

Timing:
**2026-27
Ongoing**

Te Whakatinanatanga

Implementation

Annual progress on the plan will be reported to the Community and Natural Environment Committee of Hamilton City Council, with the plan being fully reviewed every three years.

As per goal five, action one, the delivery of the plan will be facilitated by a Youth Council that will be established. Progress, outcomes, resources, and successes will be recorded for each action, in conjunction with our key partners.

Any projects identified through this plan that require resources and funding outside of current budgets will be presented to Council for consideration as part of an Annual Plan and/or the Long-Term Plan processes.

We will also consider how local and national funders may want to support the work of this plan.

Ngaa Mihi

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all who helped to shape this plan; the community groups, organisations, and youth advocates. We acknowledge all of you who gave your input online and face to face. Most of all, ngaa mihi nui to the rangatahi of Kirikiriroa for sharing your voice. This is your vision for your future and we look forward to working alongside you to bring it to life.

Rangatahi Action Plan Youth Working Group

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Action Partners



Crunch Arts Trust

Sport Waikato



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