

HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL COVID-19 12-POINT RECOVERY PLAN

Hamilton City Council has developed a 12-point plan to help the city withstand and recover from COVID-19.

Council is doing everything it possibly can to address short-term needs for those people who need it most, while planning on how best to support and rebuild our city long-term.

The plan has two phases and includes 12 initiatives.

Phase one focuses on addressing the short-term needs and has a cost of \$3.4M. This was signed off by Hamilton City Council on 27 March 2020.

Phase two is a partnership approach which will focus on how best to support and rebuild our city. Work is continuing on these initiatives.



PHASE 1

1. Social service funding support

In addition to existing community grants (\$400,000), Council will make a further \$1M available to community groups, aligned to the \$1M fund announced by the Waikato Community Funders Group. Work has already begun to support city welfare services (food banks, meals on wheels) during Alert Level 4.

Estimated cost: \$1M.

2. Early payments to suppliers

The Council will bring forward payments to all suppliers (due 20 April 2020) to be paid immediately to help with immediate cashflow needs.

Estimated cost: \$0.

3. Consent fees relief and refunds

Full refunds will be offered to anyone who wants to cancel a building consent or resource consent application. It is likely this would apply to all consents accepted and paid prior to 24 March 2020.

Estimated cost: \$460,000.

4. Rent relief

Council will waive rent for community groups and businesses that are unable to pay rent. This will include community groups, sports clubs, businesses operating from Council facilities (such as cafes), and other businesses that can demonstrate hardship. This will apply until 2020 and will then be reviewed.

Estimated cost: \$525,000.

5. Rates remissions

Hamilton City Council is one of few councils that offer additional assistance to low income earners. Council will extend its own rates rebates scheme to include those who have recently lost their jobs and don't have savings. The Government currently rebates up to \$640 and the Council up to \$549 of residential rates. This impacts around 3,000 households. OR ratepayers.

Estimated cost: \$280,000.



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PHASE 1 CONTINUED

6. Development contributions relief

Some development contribution payments - paid by developers to help pay for infrastructure - will be deferred. This is targeted at small businesses and homeowners, rather than large developers.

Estimated cost: \$800,000 (to be recovered).

7. Emergency response

The Council has already established an Incident Management Team and is coordinating with Civil Defence, Ministry of Health and other agencies.

Estimated cost: \$200,000.

8. Business response centre

The Council will partner with Te Waka and others to provide on-the-ground practical support for small and medium businesses.

Estimated cost: \$165,000.



For more information, please visit hamilton.govt.nz/recoveryplan

PHASE 2

9. Boosting Council's capital programme

Staff are urgently investigating bringing forward or increasing parts of the city's capital programme to stimulate business and create jobs. Projects being touted include planting of recreational areas and gullies, erosion control work, cycleways, large wastewater projects and a range of building projects. Contracts could be constructed to mandate certain levels of re-employment of workers who had their employment affected by COVID-19.

10. Job creation programme and major economic stimulus

Council staff and government officials are already investigating an economic stimulus package to help reduce social and economic impacts on the city and wider region. Discussions with the Government include possible co-funding arrangements. Details are likely to be released over coming weeks.

11. Economic development forum

The Council will continue working with Te Waka, Waikato Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton Central Business Association and Hamilton-Waikato Tourism to develop a forum aimed at kick-starting the city's economy post COVID-19.

12. More financial relief options

Council will review further financial relief options before finalising the budget and setting the rates for next year. Options would include continuing the initiatives already announced, different rate options for 2020/21 or new, targeted initiatives.



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