

Draft Rangatahi Action Plan

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

***you and
your friend's
faces here***



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

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Foreword from the Mayor:

Draft 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"**



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."



A woman with dark hair, wearing a traditional Māori dress (haka) with a red, black, and white geometric pattern and a green pounamu (New Zealand jade) necklace, is singing with her mouth open and her right hand over her heart. The background is dark and out of focus.

Vision:

**A Kirikiriroa Hamilton
where all rangatahi
thrive.**

Scope

Our Rangatahi Action Plan is Council's commitment to support all young people (aged 12 to 24) to thrive in Kirikiriroa Hamilton.

Kirikiriroa has the youngest population in Aotearoa with a median age of 33.2 and is 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/African.¹

The need to feel a sense of belonging and connection to "place" came through strongly through rangatahi engagement and this has been woven throughout the action plan.

Development of this plan involved extensive reach into our diverse rangatahi communities across Kirikiriroa through hui, events, and online platforms, and listened to what they felt were their top priorities in making the city an even better place for them.

We received extensive feedback through our multi -platform and face to face hui approach, including insights from youth and sector representatives, which combined form the goals and actions in this plan.

A community driven project like the Rangatahi Action Plan needs to be flexible to respond to changes in the youth community and its priorities, along with those of the agencies, groups, and advocates supporting it. This plan will be delivered from 2025 - 2028 with a review undertaken by July 2028.

Together, we look forward to the Rangatahi Action Plan coming to life and seeing our city's rangatahi thrive.

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

Strategic context

The Draft Rangatahi Action Plan will fit with Hamilton City Council's purpose and priorities:

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

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

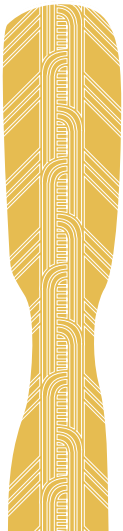


Shaping a green city

Ahuahungia teetehi
taaone tiaki taiao

He Pou Manawa Ora - Pillars of Wellbeing

He Pou Manawa Ora - Pillars of Wellbeing strategy outlines Hamilton City Council's vision for a city that celebrates its whole history, including its unique Maaori heritage; ensures everyone has voice in developing its future, and places Maaori as key partners in that development. This has been informative for the rangatahi plan and ensuring the voice of rangatahi Maaori (Maaori youth) are heard and given expression.



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.

Other 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.
- 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

Draft Rangatahi Action Plan

Goals

We spoke to Hamilton's youth to find out what they think is needed to make Kirikiriroa more awesome for them. We received hundreds of suggestions, which sit under five main themes. These became the goals for the plan.

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 youth event stakeholder groups to identify appropriate central city venues (noting the future of Mesoverse).

Status:
New

Timing:
2025-26

Action 5

Involve rangatahi in the development of art, memorial and storyboards relating to the history of the city and awa, and 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

Deliver rangatahi communications plan to better promote organisations, services, activities, and events that are relevant to Hamilton's rangatahi, via a range of communication platforms.

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

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 and 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



Goal four

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

Outcome

All of Hamilton's rangatahi feel safe while moving around 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

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 Advisory Forum to support youth input into Council and community projects

Status:
New

Timing:
2025-26

Action 2

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

Status:
Enhance

Timing:
2025-26

Action 3

Seek approval from the City Honours Committee to include a new category that specifically celebrates the contribution and achievements of rangatahi

Status:
New

Timing:
2026-27



Action 4

Actively promote and encourage rangatahi participation in local body 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 foster their potential

Status:
New

Timing:
**2026-27
Ongoing**



Implementation

This draft Rangatahi Action Plan, is a living document with progress on its actions reported annually to the Community and Natural Environment Committee of Hamilton City Council.

Any projects identified through this process which would require additional capital or operational expenditure over and above current budgets will be provided to Council for consideration as part of the Annual Plan and/or Long-Term Plan process.

The document will be reviewed three yearly, with the first review by 30 June 2028.

The combined Youth Advisory Forum/Partners hui will be held quarterly to discuss/monitor progress on the Rangatahi Action Plan goals and identify emerging issues.



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