Draft
Annual Action Plan 2026–27

Greater Dandenong

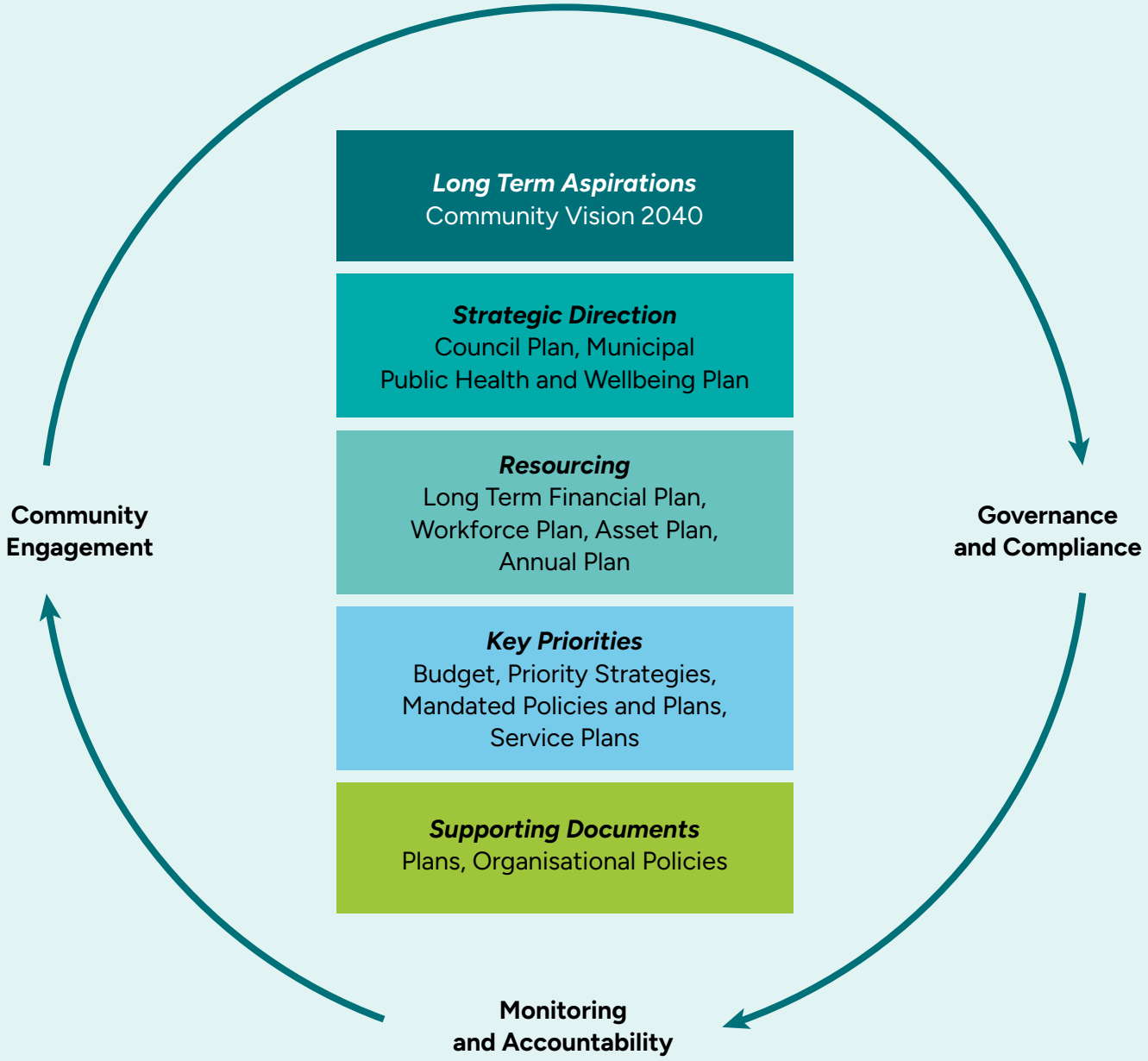
We acknowledge the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters, now known as the City of Greater Dandenong. We honour their enduring connection to Country, their Cultural knowledge, and their sustainable stewardship of these lands and waterways over thousands of generations.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, recognising their vital role in preserving and protecting the sacred lands and waterways of their Ancestors, their places, Traditional Cultural practises, and stories. We also acknowledge the Bunurong Land Council as the Registered Aboriginal Party, responsible for caring for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage of this area.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we value the opportunity to learn from and work alongside Bunurong peoples, as Traditional Custodians.

Integrated Planning Framework

Greater Dandenong City Council's Integrated Planning Framework outlines Council's approach to strategic and operational planning. It considers the key priority areas for Council and the resourcing required to effectively implement the community's vision for our city. It also ensures effective monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure accountability and community engagement processes to capture and meet the needs and aspirations of our residents and business owners.



Council Plan 2025–29

Every four years, Council develops a Council Plan. This document sets out Council's strategic direction and outcomes for the next four years, and outlines the priorities that will guide planning, investment and service delivery.

It also incorporates our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan which ensures our community's health and wellbeing is at the centre of everything we do. The Council Plan maps out how we work with our community, key stakeholders, community organisations, surrounding municipalities and other levels of government to deliver outcomes to community and support the achievement of our Community Vision – **The City of Greater Dandenong is a home to all.**

The Council Plan includes six strategic objectives that reflect our community's aspirations:

1. A socially connected, safe and healthy city
2. A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts
3. A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places
4. A green city committed to a sustainable future
5. A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes
6. A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources and a commitment to investing in the community

Our Role

We have many roles in providing services to the community:

■ Advocate

We work with State and Federal Governments and other agencies on behalf our community to influence their decision making and seek funding for projects.

● Deliver

We directly deliver a large number of services and programs including youth and children's services, home and community care, parks and gardens, roads and footpaths, and theatre and the arts.

◆ Partner

We partner with many other agencies working in our community to improve local wellbeing priorities and to assist them with delivering services to our community that we do not provide.

▲ Regulate

We often play a role in areas which are ruled by legislation such as food safety, animal management and housing.

Annual Action Plan

Every year, Council develops an Action Plan that outlines what we will do over the next 12 months to deliver against the strategic objectives and key priorities of our *Council Plan 2025–29* and support the achievement of our *Community Vision 2040*. The Annual Action Plan outlines the specific projects, initiatives and activities that Council will undertake across the year to show our progress against what is important to our community.

This Action Plan highlights Council's activities for 2026–27.

Health and Wellbeing Priorities

Physical health
Improving access to health information and service awareness, including increasing healthy eating and food security, injury prevention and reducing harmful tobacco/vaping and other drug use.

Active living
Increasing participation in physical activity opportunities, including access to parks, playgrounds and open spaces.

Social connection and wellbeing
Improving mental wellbeing and a sense of community, including liveability and health promoting public spaces as well as community connection and events.

Climate change and health
Increasing community resilience and the health co-benefits of adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Community safety
Preventing all forms of violence and improving safety in a respectful, diverse and cohesive community.

Strategic Objective 1:

A socially connected, safe and healthy city

1. Build the capacity of the community to lead safe, active and healthy lifestyles through all stages of life

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
1.1 Develop and implement a new integrated Children, Youth and Families Strategy	Community Wellbeing	●
1.2 Develop and implement a Positive Ageing Strategy to ensure older people are supported, valued and remain active members of the community	Community Care	●
1.3 Review Council's current and future role in Aged and Disability Services in response to the National Aged Care Reforms	Community Care	●
1.4 Develop and implement the sport club development program to strengthen the long-term sustainability, accessibility and reach of local sporting clubs	Safe, Active and Connected Communities	● ◆
1.5 Develop and implement the Community Safety Strategy 2026–30 as per the annual action plan	Safe, Active and Connected Communities	● ◆

Active living Social connection and wellbeing Physical health
Community safety Climate change and health

2. Foster greater collaboration and partnerships with local agencies to address key health and wellbeing needs in the community

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
2.1 Strengthen Council's response to rough sleeping through coordination and support of the Dandenong Zero Project, Victorian Alliance to End Homelessness, and the South East Homelessness and Housing Alliance	Safe, Active and Connected Communities	● ◆
2.2 Review the Community Grants Program Policy and Grants Guidelines to ensure the program is accessible, responsive to community needs and Council Plan priorities, supporting strong community participation and meaningful local impact	Safe, Active and Connected Communities	●
2.3 Develop an Emergency Management engagement model and tools that build community resilience, and empower the most at-risk members of our community to act in the event of an emergency	Safe, Active and Connected Communities	● ◆
2.4 Explore joint partnerships with Animal welfare agencies (AAPS, RSPCA), to improve responsible pet ownership and educate our community	Community Compliance and Amenity	◆

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health · Community safety · Climate change and health

3. Deliver and support initiatives that raise community awareness of gambling, harmful alcohol, tobacco/vaping and other drugs use

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
3.1 Develop and implement an Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy to guide a coordinated, long term approach to harm reduction	Safe, Active and Connected Communities	■ ● ◆

4. Strengthen our commitment to the equitable participation and inclusion of people with a disability and their carers within our community

4.1 Develop and implement a Disability Action Plan to support people with a disability to remain active members of our local community	Community Care	■ ● ◆

Active living Social connection and wellbeing Physical health
Community safety Climate change and health

5. Create and maintain safe, inclusive and well-designed public spaces and streetscapes that encourage community participation and expression

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
5.1 Explore options for Palm Plaza redevelopment as per the Dandenong Market Precinct Plan	Project Management and Project Delivery	●
5.2 Improve the perceptions of community safety through infrastructure upgrades, including improved lighting, streetscape enhancements, CCTV, fencing and other interventions	Safe, Active and Connected Communities	■ ●
5.3 Review Council's Local Laws to improve relevance and effectiveness to manage community safety and public amenity issues	Community Compliance and Amenity	● ▲

6. Connect and support the community through education and promotion, working with local partners to address and prevent family violence

6.1 Promote local services and support the implementation of initiatives through online resources and events	Advocacy	●

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health · Community safety · Climate change and health

7. Improve access to core services for those experiencing disadvantage and vulnerability in the community to support improved social, physical and mental wellbeing

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
7.1 Review Council's Fee-for-Service Vaccination program to improve community access to free vaccines	Community Wellbeing	●
7.2 Review Maternal and Child Health services for families with children aged 0–6 years to improve engagement, accessibility, service flexibility, and support across the parenting journey	Community Wellbeing	●
7.3 Implement the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing 'Strengthening Families' reforms by aligning Family Services practice, service delivery, and reporting in line with funding and contractual obligations	Community Wellbeing	●
7.4 Deliver the Community Connector Program to provide targeted support and connections to local services particularly for those from migrant and refugee backgrounds	Advocacy	■ ●

Active living Social connection and wellbeing Physical health
Community safety Climate change and health

8. Advocate for an increase in services for those experiencing poverty, and homelessness

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
8.1 Contribute to the South East Homelessness and Housing Alliance's state election advocacy platform and progress shared regional priorities	Safe, Active and Connected Communities	■
8.2 Advocate, in partnership with the Anti-Poverty Consortium, to advance strategies to reduce poverty and improve social equity in Greater Dandenong	Advocacy	■

Active living Social connection and wellbeing Physical health
Community safety Climate change and health

Strategic Objective 2:

A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts

1. Deliver and attract high-quality events, programs and initiatives that position the city as an arts and cultural destination

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
1.1 Deliver Council major events that celebrate our cultural identity	Community Wellbeing	●
1.2 Support community event organisers to deliver successful events through the timely provision of permit support services and community capacity building	Community Wellbeing	● ◆

2. Advocate for and assist People Seeking Asylum and Refugees living in the community

2.1 Advocate for the rights of People Seeking Asylum and Refugees through local initiatives	Advocacy	■ ●

3. Advance the process of Reconciliation and support First Nations people to enable self-determination

3.1 Work with Bunurong Land Council and the wider local Aboriginal community to advance Reconciliation and implement the Reconciliation Action Plan	Advocacy	■ ● ◆

Active living Social connection and wellbeing Physical health
Community safety Climate change and health

Strategic Objective 2: **A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts**

4. Promote arts, culture and heritage to enrich and support the City's growth and development

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
4.1 Develop a new Creative and Cultural Strategy to guide future services	Creative and Engaged City	●
4.2 Finalise the strategic and operational plan for the Dandenong New Art redevelopment	Creative and Engaged City	●

5. Improve access and use of Council's arts, cultural and community facilities to support improved community connection, participation and lifelong learning

5.1 Develop and implement the Community Hubs Framework to guide the planning, delivery and activation of Community Hubs	Creative and Engaged City	●
5.2 Strengthen Council's partnership with South East Leisure to design and deliver diverse, free and low-cost physical activity initiatives that improve community access, enhance awareness, and drive increased participation	Safe, Active and Connected Communities	● ◆
5.3 Partner with South East Leisure to prepare and implement operational plans for the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre	Safe, Active and Connected Communities	◆

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health
Community safety · Climate change and health

Strategic Objective 3:

A city of accessible, vibrant, centres and places

1. Provide quality community facilities and amenity improvements that meet the current and future needs of our city

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
1.1 Develop and implement a Sport and Recreation needs assessment framework to support the prioritisation of future sport and recreation facility development	Safe, Active and Connected Communities	●
1.2 Explore partnerships that help Council to expand the performance and efficiency of the animal pound service	Community Compliance and Amenity	◆

2. Increase quality, affordable and social housing options with short-term and long-term options to improve supply and provide support to those on low incomes

2.1 Improve the amount and diversity of affordable housing through the adoption and implementation of the new Housing Strategy	Strategic and Environmental Planning	■ ●
2.2 Advocate for funding for a pilot program with the manufacturing sector to enable modern construction methods for faster and more affordable housing delivery	Advocacy	■

Active living Social connection and wellbeing Physical health
Community safety Climate change and health

3. Improve liveability and civic pride through placemaking initiatives that attract and retain businesses, residents and visitors

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
3.1 Implement the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan including decorative lighting in Buckingham Avenue	Business Development and Investment	●
3.2 Deliver the Greater Dandenong Place Activation Grants program to activate public spaces and build trader and community capacity	Business Development and Investment	●

4. Plan for and support an accessible and active transport network which optimises connectivity and accelerates growth

4.1 Deliver road safety upgrades and footpath works as per the capital works program	Project Management and Project Delivery	●

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health · Community safety · Climate change and health

Strategic Objective 4:

A green city committed to a sustainable future

1. Enhance our tree canopy cover and urban forests and promote participation in protecting biodiversity values

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
1.1 Implement actions from the Our Bright Green Future Strategy – Theme 5: Biodiversity and Theme 6: Trees and Greening'	Parks and Open Space	●

2. Manage stormwater and protect waterways alongside partners to improve water quality and reduce threats to public and environmental health

2.1 Ensure major infrastructure projects, including the Webster Street Level Crossing Removal Project, incorporate appropriate integrated water management measures	Infrastructure Strategy	■ ● ◆

3. Increase the quantity and quality of diverse and accessible open spaces across the city

3.1 Implement the Open Space Five Year Improvement Plan to improve the facilities in various parks across the municipality	Strategic and Environmental Planning	●

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health · Community safety · Climate change and health

4. Transition to a resilient, net zero carbon emission city prepared for the social, environmental and health impacts of climate change

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
4.1 Progress the transition of Council owned vehicles to hybrid or electric vehicles	City Works	●
4.2 Implement the annual Action Plan items in the 'Our Bright Green Future Strategy' to enhance Council and the community's response to climate change	Strategic and Environmental Planning	●

5. Support local business and industry to enhance resilience to climate change and accelerate transition to a net zero economy

5.1 Partner with industry organisations and alliances to enhance local businesses awareness of climate change and support them in taking action to address the impacts	Strategic and Environmental Planning	◆

6. Provide, promote and advocate for a range of transport options for residents and business, to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to the impacts of climate change

6.1 Advocate to the State Government, in partnership with regional bodies, to improve transport options including the Dandenong Station upgrade and Djerring Trail	Infrastructure Strategy	■

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health · Community safety · Climate change and health

Strategic Objective 5:

A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes

1. Attract investment to ensure the sustainability, viability and growth of Greater Dandenong and its major activity centres to provide employment, housing and liveability outcomes

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
1.1 Develop and implement the Greater Dandenong Economy and Place Strategy to support economic growth, investment attraction and new housing	Business Development and Investment	■ ● ◆

2. Partner with the manufacturing sector within the city to secure the economy and maintain future employment opportunities

2.1 Partner with local manufacturers, industry organisations and regional partners such as Greater South East Melbourne to implement the Greater Dandenong Economy and Place Strategy	Business Development and Investment	◆

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health · Community safety · Climate change and health

Strategic Objective 5: **A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcome**

3. Support engagement in learning, skill development and employment pathways to improve social, economic and environmental outcomes

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
3.1 Deliver the Dandenong Pathway to Employment Hub to connect residents with local job, training, and support services to build work readiness and strengthen participation in employment pathways	Business Development and Investment	●

4. Continue the focus on collaborative business partnerships, supporting work readiness and promoting local jobs for local people

4.1 Partner with local employers and industry peak bodies, leveraging the Dandenong Pathway to Employment Hub, to support industry-ready skills and promote local jobs for local people	Business Development and Investment	◆

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health · Community safety · Climate change and health

Strategic Objective 5: **A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcome**

5. Continue to facilitate active participation of young people in the community to enhance leadership and personal development opportunities

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
5.1 Provide young people with targeted skills development that increases their readiness for future education and employment	Community Wellbeing	●

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health · Community safety · Climate change and health

Strategic Objective 6:

A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources and a commitment to investing in the community

1. Capture the diverse voices of our community through respectful and inclusive engagement opportunities to inform Council decision making

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
1.1 Improve access to community consultations in languages other than English, both in-person and online	Strategic Communications and Engagement	●

2. Recognise the rights of children and young people and ensure their voices are valued, respected and celebrated

2.1 Increase awareness of child safety and strengthen initiatives across all Council operations	Governance, Integrity, Legal and Risk	●

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health · Community safety · Climate change and health

Strategic Objective 6: **A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources and a commitment to investing in the community**

3. Manage Council's resources effectively and efficiently to ensure financial and service sustainability

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
3.1 Undertake Strategic Service Planning to ensure Council's services remain financially sustainable and responsive to community needs	Organisational Planning and Strategy	●
3.2 Develop a Financial Sustainability Strategy to ensure the organisation can continue to deliver long term sustainable outcomes	Financial Services	●

4. Renew and maintain infrastructure and facilities that are sustainable, fit for purpose and based on condition and community need

4.1 Deliver Council's Capital Improvement Program including construction of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre	Project Management and Project Delivery	●
4.2 Implement the Asset Plan 2025–35 through the development of Asset Management Plans and the Capital Improvement Program	Organisational Planning and Strategy	●

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health · Community safety · Climate change and health

Strategic Objective 6: **A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources and a commitment to investing in the community**

5. Increase awareness of the services and supports available to our community and provide accurate and timely information

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
5.1 Implement the Rates Hardship and Assistance Policy to support those experiencing financial difficulties	Financial Services	●
5.2 Improve our digital communications to provide easier access to information; while continuing to offer options in print	Strategic Communications and Engagement	●

6. Improve the customer experience by making it easy for the community to engage with Council

6.1 Implement the Customer Experience Strategy including improving the chatbot and live chat web experience	Customer Experience	●
6.2 Review Council's physical Customer Service Centres to ensure they meet customer needs, provide a quality customer experience and complement the digital options on offer	Customer Experience	●

Active living · Social connection and wellbeing · Physical health · Community safety · Climate change and health

Strategic Objective 6: **A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources and a commitment to investing in the community**

7. Invest in smarter technologies to create a digitally enabled future that meets community needs, enhances services, and improves resource management

Actions	Department	Council's Role ■ Advocate ● Deliver ◆ Partner ▲ Regulate
7.1 Develop and implement a digital improvement plan, including system upgrades and service improvements	Digital Technology	●
7.2 Upgrade Council's highest risk systems to modern, reliable platforms to enable safer, more efficient service delivery	Digital Technology	●

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(03) 8571 1000

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
Online: relayservice.gov.au

TIS:13 14 50

Acknowledging
Bunurong Country

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