

# Report to Council



**Date:** March 12, 2018  
**File:** 0610-01  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Carla Weaden, Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services  
**Subject:** Council Focus for 2018

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Divisional Director Corporate Strategic Services dated March 12, 2018 with respect to Council Focus for 2018;

AND THAT Council confirms the initiatives for the five Council focus areas for 2018 as identified in the Council Focus and Priority Projects Workshop document attached to the report of the Divisional Director Corporate Strategic Services dated March 12, 2018;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approve in principle the timelines to develop Council priorities.

## **Purpose:**

To confirm the key initiatives within the five Council focus areas for 2018 and to establish timelines for developing Council priorities that align with the four-year Council term

## **Background:**

City staff will continue to execute initiatives within Council's 10 priority areas, with a particular focus on the following areas:

- Balanced Transportation Network
- Clean Drinking Water
- Homelessness
- Housing Diversity (Affordability)
- Public Safety (Citizens are safe from personal/property crime)

The City Manager, through the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), has identified initiatives for each of the five focus areas. A summary is presented in the attached working document.

In 2015, the current Council outlined clear priorities for its four-year term, which was updated and renewed later in the term. While past Councils have set priorities for their respective terms, the process and subsequent communication to the community and staff vary.

### **Proposed Timing to Develop Council Priorities**

Staff is recommending that future Councils set the priorities for its term by spring of its first year, with an extensive mid-term update. Council will continue to have the authority to add or subtract priorities on an ongoing basis to adapt to the changing environment in which we operate. Once the priorities are confirmed staff will develop an action plan for Council's consideration, including a commitment to report annually on the progress made for each Council priority.

Clear and predictable timing for setting Council priorities will allow staff to better align its work and the budget process to achieve those priorities.

The Corporate Strategy and Performance Department is currently developing a new model to improve the City's business planning process, which will be brought to Council for feedback. Establishing the timing to set Council priorities will inform the development of the business planning process.

### **Next Steps**

Providing Council endorses the timing in principle, the Corporate Strategy & Performance Department will develop an overall program and timing for Council's consideration.

**Internal Circulation:** Senior Leadership Team

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

**Existing Policy:**

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

**Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:**

**Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

**Personnel Implications:**

**External Agency/Public Comments:**

**Communications Comments:**

**Alternate Recommendation:**

Submitted by: C. Weaden, Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services

Approved for inclusion: 

CW
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**Attachments:** Council Focus and Priority Projects for Workshop  
PowerPoint Presentation

cc: Senior Leadership Team