

Report to Council



Date: March 7, 2023
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Council priorities 2023 - 2026
Department: Corporate Strategy & Performance Dept

Recommendation:

THAT COUNCIL approve the 2023 – 2026 Council Priorities as attached to the report of the City Manager dated March 7, 2023;

AND THAT COUNCIL direct staff to report back on the progress of the 2023 - 2026 Council Priorities in six, twelve and eighteen months.

Purpose:

To receive Council approval for the 2023 - 2026 Council Priorities.

Background:

The Council Priorities 2023 - 2026 document identifies the following six (6) priority areas and 22 Council Priority Actions distributed across the priorities:

1. Crime & Safety

- Strategy to address property crime; including break and enters and theft
- Provide local Business Improvement Areas support for urban center safety issues (e.g. 'Red Shirts' program)
- Establish a safety task force with stakeholders
- Partner with Provincial ministries responsible for mental health and problematic substance use on initiatives (i.e. Community Safety Plan) that improve local conditions

2. Affordable Housing

- Acquire city owned land to build affordable housing
- Increase number of rental units with below market rents
- Partner on the creation of a low-cost affordable housing pilot project

3. Homelessness

- Advocate for additional Complex Care Centre (e.g. Red Fish Healing Center)
- Explore partnership opportunities for alternative forms of sheltering
- Advocate for purpose-built permanent shelter with 'wrap-around' supports and graduated housing options
- Develop an emergency winter shelter program

4. Transportation

- Explore alternative modes of transportation between UBCO/YLW and downtown.
- Improve transit service including expanding the transit pass program.
- Improve traffic flow and capacity on major road networks (e.g. Lakeshore Road)
- Complete the functional design of the Hwy 33 multi-modal traffic corridor
- Enhance traffic safety presence

5. Agriculture

- Facilitate the creation of a permanent home for the farmer's market
- Review the Agriculture Plan with respect to secondary uses
- Expand Enforcement/Bylaw Officers

6. Climate & Environment

- Include 'Climate Lens' in decision making to assess mitigation and adaptation
- Increase urban tree canopy (e.g. tree-lined medians)
- Pilot energy concierge program to enable retrofits in buildings

The actions and priority areas reflect Council's response to what our citizens are saying is important, and are expected to be revisited during Council's term.

The document does not outline all the City's base business, nor does it present a detailed plan to achieve the results. While some of the 22 priority action items are already underway others will require staff to present plans to Council for consideration.

Status updates will be provided at six, twelve and eighteen months. The regular cadence of reviewing progress enables Council and the city's administrative leadership to adjust their approach and investments to ensure projects are completed, new projects added as required, and the overall portfolio of projects is contributing to the results defined within the six priority areas.

Conclusion:

Following Council's approval, the priorities will be communicated to the public through a variety of channels. Priorities will be communicated through the organization so staff can advance the actions and to inform work planning and budget direction for 2024.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

External Agency/Public Comments:

***Communications Comments:
Existing Policy:***

Submitted by: M. McGreer

Approved for inclusion:

CW

cc: SLT