

# Report to Council



**Date:** July 16, 2024  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Council priorities 2023 – 2026 Update  
**Department:** Corporate Strategy & Performance

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council endorse the updated 2023 – 2026 Council priorities as attached to the report from the City Manager dated July 16, 2024;

AND THAT Council direct staff to report back on the progress of the 2023 – 2026 Council priorities.

## **Purpose:**

To receive Council endorsement for the updated Council priorities for 2023 – 2026.

## **Background:**

Council approved its priorities for 2023 – 2026 on March 7, 2023 with a commitment to report on progress regularly and update the priorities as appropriate.

Staff presented a six month progress report on October 16, 2023. Following the 12-month progress report presented to Council on March 25, 2024 Council met twice to review its current priorities, assess progress, identify actions for staff to evaluate, and provide direction to update its priorities.

## *Previous Council Resolution*

Resolution	Date
THAT COUNCIL approve the 2023 – 2026 Council Priorities as attached to the report of the City Manager dated March 7, 2023;	March 20, 2023

## **Discussion:**

The structure of the Council priorities document leads with Council Priority Actions which is the focus of this Council report. The document also identifies 'the results we want to see' and 'how we measure progress on this priority' which further clarifies the direction to staff and enables [reporting on outcomes](#) in addition to progress on specific [Council priority actions](#).

Six actions from the current priorities were identified as complete and removed from the updated priorities (e.g. establish a safety task force with stakeholders), while a number of actions were updated to reflect significant progress or changing context (e.g. “Explore partnership opportunities for alternative forms of sheltering” was updated to “Complete the delivery of tiny home units committed to by the Province” following the delivery of 120 units at the STEP and Trailside sites).

The updated Council Priorities 2023 - 2026 document identifies the following seven (7) priority areas and 30 Council Priority Actions distributed across the priorities.

### **Crime & safety**

- Advance implementation of Mayor’s Task Force on Crime Reduction recommendations, including Business Improvement Area support
- Reduce property crime; including break and enters and theft
- Demonstrate effectiveness of visibility on high-risk traffic behavior (e.g. speeding, texting) and crime.
- Support utilization of current policy restricting use of drugs in public spaces
- Partner with Provincial ministries responsible for mental health and problematic substance use on initiatives (i.e. Community Safety Plan) that improve local conditions

Updates to this priority’s actions include advancing Mayor’s Task Force on Crime Reduction recommendations, increased visibility on high-risk traffic behavior and crime, and maintaining a focus on reducing property crime.

The completed action from the Crime & Safety priority was to establish a safety task force with stakeholders.

### **Affordable Housing**

- Meet provincial/local affordable housing targets with support from the Province
- Complete Housing Action Plan including incentive options
- Partner on the creation of a low-cost affordable housing pilot project
- Investigate options to protect renters impacted by redevelopment projects and protect existing rental stock

Updates to this priority’s actions include a focus on meeting housing targets developed after the initial Council priorities, complete a Housing Action Plan to address housing needs including incentive options, and investigate options to protect renters impacted by redevelopment.

The completed action from the Affordable Housing priority is acquire city owned land to build affordable housing. Land acquisition is ongoing and will adjust as required based on Council’s policy direction.

### **Homelessness**

- Advocate for a regional care facility (e.g. Red Fish Healing Center model)
- Complete the delivery of tiny home units committed to by the Province

- Facilitate a purpose-built permanent shelter with 'wrap-around' supports and graduated housing options.
- Assess feasibility of care and delivery models such as a multi-care site

Updates to this priority's actions include to the previous action "Explore partnership opportunities for alternative forms of sheltering" which saw 120 units completed on two sites and was updated to "Complete the delivery of tiny homes committed to by the Province" and assessment of care and delivery models identified in the Mayor's Task Force on Crime Reduction.

The completed action from the Homelessness priority was to develop an emergency winter shelter program. Staff continue to execute a plan for emergency cold weather response with examples such as warming buses and clothing, a mat program, etc. highlighted in the last progress report.

## **Transportation**

- Complete the functional design of the Hwy 33 multi-modal traffic corridor and propose a partnership delivery model to the Province
- Secure funding for a new transit operations center
- Enhance traffic safety (e.g. traffic calming and pedestrian infrastructure)
- 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. roads bundle)

Updates to this priority's actions reflect progress on existing actions and to align to Council's advocacy priorities notably for the future delivery of the Highway 33 expansion and a new transit operations centre.

## **Agriculture**

- Protect agricultural lands
- Continue to ensure farmland is used for permitted uses
- Ensure sufficient & high-quality agricultural water supply

The update to this priority's actions is to ensure a sufficient and high-quality agricultural water supply. The City plays a critical role to provide enabling infrastructure such as water that support farmers and the agricultural sector.

Completed actions from the Agriculture priority is to facilitate the creation of a permanent home for the farmer's market, review the Agriculture Plan with respect to secondary uses, and expand enforcement/bylaw officers.

## **Climate & Environment**

- Complete the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy
- 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 update to this priority's action is to complete the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy which will provide holistic direction and actions for the City to both mitigate GHGs and adapt to a changing climate.

## **Economy**

- Seek opportunities to enhance economic diversification
- Attract new employment and support existing business growth
- Assess the City's supply of employment lands
- Consider the City's investment into economic development

The new economy priority recognizes that a thriving economy is essential to a good quality of life for residents and the community's long-term sustainability.

## **Conclusion:**

The Council priorities document does not outline all the City's base business, nor does it include the detailed plan that will achieve the results. While some of the 30 priority action items are already underway others will require staff to present plans to Council or request funding for consideration.

Status updates will be provided at a regular cadence. 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 seven priority areas.

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 2025.

## **Considerations not applicable to this report:**

*Legal/Statutory Authority:*

*Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:*

*Existing Policy:*

*Financial/Budgetary Considerations:*

Submitted by: M. McGreer, Department Manager Corporate Strategy & Performance

**Approved for inclusion:** L. Corcoran, Communications Director

cc: SLT