

Report to Council



Date: January 27, 2025
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Progress Report on Council Priority Actions
Department: Corporate Strategy & Performance

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the progress report on Council priority actions from the Corporate Strategy & Performance Department dated January 27, 2025.

Purpose:

To receive the progress report on Council priority actions.

Background:

Council priorities 2023 – 2026 were endorsed by Council in March 2023. Council [updated its priorities in July 2024](#), which included the addition of a seventh priority focused on the economy.

As per Council's direction staff have provided updates on Council's priorities approximately every six months with a first progress report on Council priority action presented in October 2023 and a [data-primary progress report](#) presented in March 2024. The third progress report is being presented in January 2025, six months after Council updated its priorities in July 2024.

The progress reports on Council priorities complements other regular public reporting including service-levels in the [2025 Financial Plan](#) presented in December 2024, upcoming reports on the [Official Community Plan](#) and [Transportation Master Plan](#) in Q2 2025, quarterly financial health reports, and audited financial statements in late Q2.

Discussion:

The progress report on Council priority actions provides evidence of progress on 25 Council priority actions. Highlights from the report include:

1. Crime & Safety

- Seven RCMP officers, one crime analyst, five bylaw officers, and four firefighters added in 2025 Financial Plan.

- Mayor's Task Force on Crime Reduction (MTFCR) [recommendations](#) were adopted in Q2 2024. Progress was made on a majority of the 19 initiatives, including expansion of Business Improvement Area (BIA) ambassador programs.
- 2025 Financial Plan enables significant advancement of numerous MTFCR initiatives
- Substantial progress implementing the five-year [Community Safety Plan](#) with 14 of 30 initiatives complete / underway.
- Continued Provincial advocacy on repeat offenders.

2. Affordable Housing

- [Housing Action Plan interim report](#) presented to Council in Q4 2024 with a final Action Plan presented for Council endorsement in Q1 2025.
- A new fast track housing program was launched in 2024 to accelerate development of infill housing such as 4 plexes and carriage houses.
- Two pilot projects are underway through the [Middle Income Housing Partnership](#) program that will create 160 – 200 units. The City has identified a successful proponent to move forward on the two sites. Project details will be announced in Q2 2025.

3. Homelessness

- Advocating for a regional compassionate mandatory care facility, similar to a Red Fish Healing Centre model, is one of Council's advocacy priorities.
- Provincial announcement in April 2024 with commitments to build a new purpose-built complex care facility on the municipally contributed Pacific Avenue site. It will include 20 complex care beds, and 20 supportive housing units.
- Through the Provincial HEART & HEARTH program, 60 additional units of rapid safety net housing units will be opening Q1 2025.
- 120 units delivered in 2024 at Trailside and STEP Place.
- 20 complex care beds operational and fully occupied.

4. Transportation

- Nearly [\\$90 million invested in multi-modal transportation](#) infrastructure projects and operations in the 2025 Financial Plan.
- Clement Avenue extension and new transit operation centre named as Council advocacy priorities.
- [Richter Corridor Study](#) underway to help plan ahead for added transit capacity. Currently focused on bus rapid transit (BRT).
- Delivered seven traffic calming projects.

5. Agriculture

- Glenmore Ellison Irrigation District is being [integrated into the City of Kelowna](#) to provide reliable and safe water supply as part of the long-term [Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan](#).

6. Climate & Environment

- The [Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy](#) was endorsed by Council in Q4 2024.
- The [Sustainable Urban Forest Strategy](#) was endorsed by Council in Q3 2024 and
- 828 trees were sold through the NeighbourWoods program 2024, which is more than any previous year.
- Launched a [free "Home Energy Navigator" program](#) to engage and support homeowners throughout their retrofit journey. In 2024, 36 homeowners participated.

7. Economy

- Major events attracted to Kelowna include hosting the inaugural Canadian Premier League soccer game in 2024, 2025 Canadian Country Music Awards, 2025 Brier and the [2026 Memorial Cup](#).
- Economic development options review will be undertaken in 2025 to explore potential roles for the City in delivering Kelowna-specific economic development initiatives.

Conclusion:

The progress report on Council priority actions, alongside the data-focused progress report to be presented in late March 2025, supports the organization's commitment to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement. The information contained in the reports will assist Council in monitoring organizational performance, and updating its priorities should it choose to do so.

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, Corporate Strategy & Performance Department Manager

Approved for inclusion: J. Sass, General Manager, Corporate Services

Attachments:

Attachment A: Progress report on Council priority actions

cc: SLT