

## Council approves Strategic Plan Update

At their Jan. 28 meeting, City Council approved an update of their 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan sets out the strategic focus for staff and Council throughout the 2022-26 term, and serves as a roadmap for the delivery of services, projects and programs. In his presentation to council, the city manager went over the priorities that have been advanced or completed.

Completed priorities include advancing park amenities; reviewing Council committees; applying to receive additional Federal Reaching Home Funding; implementing the Homelessness Action Plan and Affordable Housing Strategy; updating the Business Retention and Expansion, Employee Engagement, Retention, and Safety Culture Strategies; continuing to develop the Abbotsford International Airport and modernize City Services; developing a Safety Culture Strategy; and enhancing community engagement and access to information.

Objectives that are currently in process include updating the Official Community Plan, Joint Use Agreements with School District 34, and the City's Truck Parking Study; implementing the Arena Strategy and Asset Management Plan; advocating for funding for the Flood Mitigation Strategy; exploring a Convention Centre/Hotel for the community as well as revenue-generating and land development opportunities; continuing the implementation of an Abbotsford Ambassador Program; advocating and supporting Agritech investment opportunities; and reviewing organizational needs.

View the entire presentation at [abbotsford.ca/strategicplanupdate2025](http://abbotsford.ca/strategicplanupdate2025).



## Council endorses accessibility plan

At their Jan. 28 meeting, City Council endorsed the City of Abbotsford Community Accessibility Plan.

The Accessibility and Equity Advisory Committee (AEAC) reviewed the Plan to provide further feedback and support and affirmed that the Plan is in alignment with community need.

Moving forward, staff will be providing Council with an annual progress report, as well as a full review and update every three years with AEAC consultation. In accordance with the Accessible British Columbia Act, an online form will be available for the public to submit suggestions to support a barrier-free Abbotsford.

View the Community Accessibility Plan at [abbotsford.ca/communityaccessibilityplan](http://abbotsford.ca/communityaccessibilityplan).

## Council adopts five-year financial plan bylaw

At their Jan. 28 meeting, City Council adopted the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw, 2025-2029, thus approving the City of Abbotsford's \$373 million 2025 budget.

With the rising costs of construction, emergency services, external factors and labour contract obligations due to pressures felt across the region, Council decided on a general property tax revenue increase of 4.98 per cent plus a one per cent infrastructure levy for a total of 5.98 per cent.

View the full draft financial plan at [abbotsford.ca/draftfinancialplan2025](http://abbotsford.ca/draftfinancialplan2025).

## Council adopts housing agreement bylaw for Montvue shelter

At their Jan. 21 meeting, City Council adopted a housing agreement bylaw to allow for an emergency shelter at 2539 Montvue Ave.

Last month Council conditionally approved the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit and Housing Agreement to accommodate a 30-bed emergency shelter at the corner of Montvue Avenue and Gosling Way. The property is owned by Archway Community Services but is being leased to the Province through BC Housing for the next three years.

## Council endorses application to renew lease of Norrish Creek Water Treatment Plant land

At their Jan. 21 meeting, City Council endorsed the submission of a Norrish Creek Tenure Licence Application to the Ministry of Forests, which oversees the Crown land where the Norrish Creek Water Source is located. This would permit the City, as operator of the regional water system, to continue to access and use all infrastructure associated with the Norrish Creek water supply system, including the diversion, conveyance and treatment facilities, as well as pipeline and electrical power infrastructure along the Norrish Forest Service Road.

In their report to Council, staff explained that the Crown Land Tenure was originally issued in 1983 as a Special Use Permit, then renewed as a License of Occupation in 1988, 1998 and 2008. In 2018, due to changes in licensing requirements, the City was granted a grace period to apply for a new license. The new license consists of a Crown Land lease over which the diversion, conveyance, and treatment facilities are sited, as well as a Statutory Right of Way over the linear infrastructure along the Norrish Forest Service Road.

## Council approves Parks Planning 5-Year Plan

At their Jan. 28 meeting, City Council approved the proposed 2025-2029 Parks System Strategic Work Plan; Neighbourhood Park Planning, Design and Construction Work Plan; and Park Amenities Program. They also received an update on completed, underway and upcoming parks system strategies and projects.

In their report to Council, staff note the 5-Year Plan was developed to inform Council and residents of priorities in the evolution of the City's parks system, including work related to parks system strategic planning, and the design and construction of parks, trails and park amenities. Staff recommend updating the Plan to guide the development of the City's parks system over the next five years.

Updates include adding an Off-Leash Strategy in 2026; adjusting the 2025-2029 Neighbourhood Park Planning, Design and Construction Work Plan to reflect the current project schedule; and revising the Park Amenities Program to merge some individual projects into larger initiatives, which should minimize disruption to park users, facilitate more meaningful community engagement, leverage playground lifecycle funds, and result in more competitive bids and potential cost savings.

View the presentation at [abbotsford.ca/parksprojectupdate](https://abbotsford.ca/parksprojectupdate).

## Council opens Public Art Policy and Program Review to public feedback

At their Jan. 21 meeting, City Council directed staff to undertake community consultation for Stage 3 of the Public Art Policy and Program Review.

In their presentation to Council, staff outlined the findings of the Stage 3 - Key Directions work. The five Key Directions are the overall intent and goals for the program including the: vision, mandate, guiding principles and outcomes; program scope; governance and decision-making framework; site selection criteria; and program funding and allocation.

The program's vision is that public art is a catalyst for community connection and creative placemaking. Its mandate is to strategically integrate public art into city planning, fostering community engagement, celebrating cultural heritage, and enhancing urban and natural landscapes. The guiding principles are community integrity, being eco-conscious and ethical, providing a creative push, collaborative synergy, and equity. The outcomes are having a transformative public realm, active community engagement, cultural inclusion and celebration, social connectivity, and creative inspiration.

Check out the staff presentation at [abbotsford.ca/publicartstage3](https://abbotsford.ca/publicartstage3) to learn more about the program scope, governance and decision-making framework, site selection criteria, and program funding and allocation.