

Council approves and expedites Aquatic Services and Facilities Strategy

At their July 14 meeting, City Council approved the City's new Aquatic Services and Facilities Strategy, including an expedited timeline to build a new 50-metre training pool facility at MSA Park.

The strategy sets out how the City will address aging facilities, meet future demand, improve service levels and sustain a modern, inclusive aquatic system. It presents a decentralized, three-facility solution that includes:

- building a new 10-lane, 50-metre training pool at MSA Park focused on competitive athlete development, competition, and swim club use

- replacing the pool at Matsqui Recreation Centre (MRC) with a new, slightly larger pool
- developing a new, larger, community-scale pool at Abbotsford Recreation Centre (ARC) to replace the existing, smaller, neighbourhood-scale pool

The City measures aquatic demand in "swims per capita." This plan is estimated to nearly double the City's capacity from 555,000 to about 1,075,000 annual swims. The new MSA, MRC and ARC pools are currently estimated to be completed by 2032, 2038 and 2042, respectively.

View the staff presentation at abbotsford.ca/aquaticstrategystage4.

Council approves first stage of Transportation and Utilities Master Plans

At their July 28 meeting, City Council approved Stage 1 of the Transportation Master Plan and the Utilities Master Plans, including Drainage, City Wastewater and City Water. Staff will now proceed to Stage 2, the analysis and evaluation phase.

The Transportation and Utilities Master Plans identify the infrastructure needed to provide reliable and cost-effective service to support growing community needs over the next 25 years.

Stage 1 for each plan includes a review of the existing system and its current state, a highlight of key issues and opportunities for further review in the later stages, and a summary of the guiding principles and assumptions made.

View the Transportation Master Plan presentation at abbotsford.ca/transportationplanstage1. View the Utilities Master Plan presentation at abbotsford.ca/utilitiesplanstage1.

Council amends policy to allow banners in Civic Precinct for City-partnered B.C. statutory holiday events

At their July 14 meeting, Council amended the City's Street Banners Policy, renaming it the "Banners Policy", and enabling the creation of a Community Event Banner Program to promote City-partnered community events that take place within the Civic Precinct, are organized by a non-profit or charity, and are recognizing a Provincial statutory holiday.

The City currently has two annual events hosted with partners in the Civic Precinct near City Hall: Remembrance Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event, Stetís ímexstowx. This policy update allows organizers to prominently display banners in the Civic Precinct to support education and public awareness of the statutory holidays in the weeks preceding each event.

The City will provide in-kind support for the installation and removal of the banners, while organizers remain responsible for all banner design and production costs. The City will approve all banner designs.

Council directs staff to implement Curbside Recycling Contamination Remediation Plan

At their July 14 Council meeting, City Council directed staff to implement enhancements to our solid waste program to support the City's 2026 Curbside Recycling Contamination Remediation Plan. The intent is to reduce the rate of non-recyclables incorrectly disposed of in, or "contaminating," curbside recycling bins.

As a participant in Recycle BC's recycling program, the City receives approximately \$1.2 million annually to offset curbside recycling program costs as long as the City works to keep the contamination rate below 5 per cent. Last year's contamination rate was 8.91 per cent. Fines paid by the City due to high contamination rates impact the affordability of the recycling program.

The new remediation plan includes low-cost improvements focused on a targeted reduction of heavy contaminants like books, plus an expansion of school education programs and enhanced outreach, such as proactive door-to-door visits to observed "contamination hotspots."

The updated approach is based on Recycle BC feedback, industry best-management practices, and the results of last year's contamination reduction efforts. Resident support in sorting recycling appropriately makes the biggest impact to reducing contamination, and the City provides many resources to the community to achieve lower contamination rates.

Visit abbotsford.ca/CRP for more information and/or view the staff presentation at abbotsford.ca/2026recyclingupdate.



Council supports staff approval of minor Development Variance Permits

At their July 28 meeting, City Council adopted bylaw amendments that provide staff with the ability to review and approve minor Development Variance Permits (DVP) to assist in streamlining the development application process.

DVPs allow specific bylaw regulations to be varied for a specific property or proposal. Minor variances generally include those related to:

- regulations for building location, size and dimensions
- landscaping regulations
- off-street parking and loading regulations, except for parking minimums
- all signage regulations

Delegating the approval of minor DVPs to staff was one of the Council-endorsed priorities resulting from the Development Application Process Review.

View the staff presentation at abbotsford.ca/minorDMVdelegation.

Council advances plan for new arena complex at Exhibition Park

At their July 14 meeting, City Council directed staff to immediately begin work to advance planning for a new two-sheet, participant-focused ice arena complex to be built and operated by the City at Exhibition Park.

Upon completion, the two new City-owned and operated ice sheets would immediately accommodate all current ice and dry floor needs expressed by local not-for-profit minor sports organizations by providing approximately 4,200 hours of additional prime-time ice each season.

The new space will also greatly increase available dry floor space in the off-season, meeting the needs of local not-for-profit minor lacrosse and ball hockey groups. Exhibition Park was chosen as the preferred site due to its central location and its available space and parking capacity.

Council receives mid-year investment report

At their July 28 meeting, City Council received the 2026 Mid-Year Investment Report, which projects that investment income for 2026 will be \$37.8 million, which is \$5.7 million more than expected.

For 2026, cash and investment balances are averaging higher than budgeted, resulting in a revenue increase of \$3.4 million. Overall rates of return are also slightly higher than expected, resulting in an additional \$2.3 million.

The City intentionally budgets conservatively in terms of expectations for spending its funds to ensure the City can cover its expenses. Investment returns are credited to the reserves from which they were earned.

Council approves the Climate Resilience Strategy

At their July 28 meeting, City Council approved the City's finalized Climate Resilience Strategy (CRS) and directed staff to begin implementing it.

The CRS provides a road map for the City's climate mitigation and adaptation efforts over the next 25 years. It envisions "A low-carbon, resilient Abbotsford where people, the natural environment, and the economy thrive together in a healthy, connected community." It contains 80 actions divided into nine "Big Moves":

1. Centre equity, health and community resilience
2. Build a low-carbon, climate-ready economy
3. Strengthen climate-resilient infrastructure
4. Support lower-carbon transportation
5. Enable low-carbon, high-performance buildings
6. Foster climate-resilient agriculture and food systems
7. Protect and enhance natural systems
8. Strengthen emergency management for a changing climate
9. Enable implementation through City leadership

These moves and actions address Abbotsford's most significant climate risks, target the community's key sources of greenhouse gas emissions, and advance climate adaptation and resilience priorities while providing broader social, economic and environmental benefits for the City and region.

View the staff presentation at abbotsford.ca/climatestrategyfinal.