

# TOWN OF COCHRANE MEDIA RELEASE

Communications: 403-851-2503



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY MARCH 27, 2018

## **COUNCIL APPROVES PRIORITIES FINALIZED WITH COMMUNITY INPUT**

Cochrane, AB – Council approved their list of priorities for the next four years at last night’s Council meeting. The final list incorporated input received from the community and Town staff.

The list of priorities was drafted in February at a special Council strategic session. The list was refined, then shared with the community for feedback.

“Council was elected by this community to represent them,” says Mayor Jeff Genung. “We need to make sure our priorities align with what the community elected us to do, as well as what’s right for the long-term.”

Council priorities fall into four categories — Community Connectivity, Community Development and Planning, Community Engagement and Community Facilities and Services — all approached through a “Smart Cities” lens.

The Town used its new Let’s Talk Cochrane public engagement portal to invite residents to give feedback at two engagement sessions or via online survey. A total of 67 people participated, as well as 29 Town staff members.

“We’re excited by the level of community participation in this process,” says CAO Dave Devana. “We received very thoughtful comments in survey responses, and had in-depth conversations with community members at engagement events.”

Council priorities are used for the next four years — in conjunction with the Strategic Plan — as the foundation for business plans and budgets. Council still holds an annual strategic session to check-in on the priorities and ensure they continue to reflect the collective direction of Council and the community.

### **Council Priorities: Key Actions and Milestones**

#### **(1) Community Connectivity**

Focus on multi-modal transportation solutions that achieve positive traffic and pedestrian flows throughout the community.

- Improve existing traffic flows throughout Cochrane by focusing on existing corridors.
- Continue to work with Alberta Transportation on design and construction of the 1A/22 Interchange.
- Advocate for highway improvements within the Town boundaries including intersections at Centre Ave. and 5th Ave.
- Design Centre Avenue intersection and approaches to railway tracks to accommodate four lanes and ultimately a grade-separated crossing.
- Design and construct Bow River Bridge and connecting road network to ensure safe pedestrian and cycling connectivity.
- Investigate transit strategies for consideration in 2018.
- Improve, plan and advocate for local and regional pathway networks that connect all communities.

## **(2) Community Development and Planning**

Focus on improved development and land use plans that align with the Social Policy Framework and Growth Management Strategy in order to promote a complete community.

- Implement a water strategy; upgrade wastewater and water infrastructure to accommodate future growth.
- Review and update Municipal Development Plan implementing a system for an annual review and an update every five years.
- Review and update Land Use Bylaw implementing a system for an annual review and an update every five years.
- Prioritize commercial and industrial development while broadening residential housing options.
- Focus on development of Growth Management Regional Plan and Servicing Plan.

## **(3) Community Engagement**

Focus on improved community engagement opportunities.

- Update Public Engagement Policy to ensure a clear approach and meaningful and useful outcomes.
- Establish engagement strategies for key community issues and projects (e.g. Smart Cities, Transit).
- Establish engagement opportunities with youth, seniors, neighbouring communities and First Nations.

## **(4) Community Facilities and Services**

Focus on services and spaces that achieve a safe and improved sense of community.

- Advocate with Alberta Health Services for improved emergency, physical and mental health services.
- Design and build a new integrated Police detachment.
- Complete designs for:
  - Fifth Avenue site (including Lions Rodeo Grounds),
  - 1 acre site east of the library and

- Former Esso Bulk Station site.
- Develop an effective asset management system.
- Focus on achieving organizational efficiencies.

— 30 —

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Rebecka Freels, Public Relations Advisor

P: 403-851-2576

rebecka.freels@cochrane.ca

@TownofCochrane | [facebook.com/townofcochrane](https://www.facebook.com/townofcochrane)