

2026-2029 Strategic Plan – City Council Priority Areas

ISSUE

The City of Saskatoon's current Strategic Plan will conclude at the end of 2025. A new Strategic Plan, which will run from 2026-2029, is being prepared. On January 16, 2025, City Council held a strategic planning session to identify the key areas that the Mayor and Councillors will be focusing on over the duration of the new strategic plan ("Priority Areas").

Based on *Council Policy C01-029 – City Council Strategic Priority & Leadership Initiative*, Members of City Council can be designated as Leads for the different Priority Areas. This empowers Council members to undertake a leadership role in addressing certain challenges facing the City and the community in these areas.

Having had Priority Areas and Council Leads in place for the past 8 years, revisions to the Policy are proposed to clearly outline the expectations of the Council Leads and the approach to Priority Areas.

City Council's approval is required to adopt the new City Council Priority Areas, the Leads for each area, and updates to *Council Policy C01-029*.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That City Council adopt City Council's Priority Areas for the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan, along with the Council-designated Leads for each area, as outlined in this report; and
2. That City Council approve the revisions to *Council Policy C01-029 – City Council Strategic Priority & Leadership Initiative* as attached to this report.

BACKGROUND

The City of Saskatoon's Strategic Plan includes many elements such as *Vision, Mission, Values, Purpose, Strategic Goals, Pillars, Outcomes and Key Actions*. The pillars are an important component of the plan that highlight the work that the City has chosen to prioritize over the designated four-year period to help achieve its Strategic Goals. The three pillars are:

1. Advance City Council's Priorities
2. Deliver Excellence in Core Services and Operational Priorities
3. Drive Corporate Transformational Change

As part of the City of Saskatoon's strategic planning process, City Council identifies its key focus areas under the *Advance City Council's Priorities* pillar. City Administration builds on City Council's direction to define other important priorities under the other two pillars that are required to meet the City's Strategic Goals. The second pillar above ensures a focus on operational excellence in delivering our core services, while the third

ensures that Administration is strengthening its capability to deliver on Council's priorities and the public's needs.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

City Council held a strategic planning meeting on January 16, 2025, to identify the key areas of focus under the *Advance City Council's Priorities* pillar.

Nine priority areas were identified by City Council, with *Community Safety and Well-being* designated as Council's paramount priority in the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan. This means that City Council deems it an area of critical importance to address significantly over the duration of Council's current term. The *Community Safety and Well-being* priority will centre on two major elements – (1) *Housing & Homelessness*, and (2) *Community Safety*.

A full list of the City Council Priority Areas for the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan is outlined below, in random order other than Community Safety & Well-being.

2026-2029 Strategic Priority Area	Councillors Lead(s)
Community Safety & Well-being <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing & Homelessness• Community Safety	Mayor Block <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Pearce• Councillor Ford
Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI)	Councillor Timon
Parks, Recreation and Culture	Councillor Kelleher
Growth: Urban and Regional	Councillor Donauer
Downtown	Councillor Davies
Environment	Councillor Parker
Transportation	Councillor MacDonald
Core Services	Councillor Dubois
Economic Development / Business Friendly Initiatives	Councillor Jeffries

Council Policy C01-029 – City Council Strategic Priority & Leadership Initiative has been revised based on the strategic planning work done to date. Revisions are proposed to the Policy to clarify the roles and responsibilities of members of Council as Leads and to update how the strategic priority areas are outlined in the Policy. A blacklined version of the Policy detailing the proposed amendments is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. A clean version of the policy for City Council approval is also included as Appendix 2.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with this work are within the scope of approved program budgets.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, policy, social, CPTED, or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

Following the adoption of this report's recommendation, each Council Member Lead will work with Administration to define a strategic direction for the priority area for which they are responsible. City Council will then work together as a team to review and refine each section, and the final 2026-2029 Strategic Plan will be considered and debated at City Council in late 2025.

APPENDICES

1. Blackline Version of *Council Policy C01-029 – City Council Strategic Priority & Leadership Initiative*
2. Clean Version of *Council Policy C01-029 – City Council Strategic Priority & Leadership Initiative*

Report Approval

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