

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jun17_2025

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Council Committee update

Report Purpose

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on two Council committees and established frameworks.

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 4 Priority - Optimal use of resources that meets the community's needs

Goal 2 Priority - Social supports that enhance community well-being and safety, and build community connection

Goal 2 Priority - A diversity of housing options that addresses affordability, aligns with community needs and responds to changing demographics

Report

Throughout 2024 and 2025, significant work has been completed to provide organizational strategic direction on accessibility and the needs of older adults through development of both the Accessibility Framework and the Healthy Aging Strathcona County Framework.

Accessibility Framework:

- Efforts to establish the Accessibility Framework emerged from the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to accessibility at the County.
- The framework was completed in 2024 and provides guidance to all departments on shared goals and outcomes across the organization to support accessibility.
- Departments will engage as needed, based on their implementation priorities.

Health Aging Strathcona County Framework (HASC):

- Through feedback and discussions with older adult serving groups, including the Seniors Advisory Committee, administration identified the need for a framework to address the range of needs for older adults and establish priorities for action.
- The HASC was approved by Council in 2025 and establishes a shared direction for all organizations supporting older adults in the community.
- As a next step, an implementation plan will be developed to support community-wide action in support of the framework.
- Engagement will continue to take place with older-adult and community-serving organizations to inform implementation.

The implementation of both strategic frameworks is currently underway across the organization, with significant County staff and budgetary resources invested to support success.

Throughout implementation of the Accessibility and HASC Frameworks, the community will have opportunity to engage on key issues related to accessibility and older adults as needed to support the strategic direction.

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The continued investment of resources in these two frameworks prioritizes the work initiated through the established strategic directions. Efforts to support accessibility and older adults will be embedded in work across the organization on an ongoing basis.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Seniors Advisory Committee are scheduled to conclude at the end of 2025. This timing provides the newly-elected Council with an opportunity to assess the overall committee structure and determine the future need for this type of community engagement. Should Council choose to continue this work, they may establish a new committee or task force moving forward.

Council and Committee History

December 5, 2023	Council gave three readings to Amending Bylaw 43-2023, extending the sunset date of the AAC and SAC from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2025.
December 6, 2022	Council gave three readings to Amending Bylaw 60-2022, extending the sunset date of the AAC and SAC from December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2023.
December 8, 2020	Council gave three readings to Amending Bylaw 61-2020, extending the sunset date of the AAC and SAC from July 31, 2021 to December 31, 2022.
October 16, 2018	Council gave third reading to Bylaw 29-2018 establishing the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC).
September 25, 2018	Council gave three reading to Bylaw 30-2018 establishing the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC).

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Financial/Budget:

Legislative/Legal: S. 145 of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) provides that a Council may establish Council Committees by bylaw. Such a bylaw may establish the function of the Committee and the procedures to be followed.

Interdepartmental: Municipal Clerk's Office and Family and Community Services

Master Plan/Framework: n/a