



GOVERNANCE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Title Government Relations & Advocacy Update

Meeting Date June 27, 2024

Submitted By Gerald Gauthier, Manager of Government Relations

Summary

This update provides an overview of:

- Recent actions regarding Council's approved advocacy priorities
- Current and upcoming actions in preparation for Council advocacy opportunities through the remainder of 2024
- A recommendation intended to ensure City Council members are sufficiently prepared, equipped and coordinated to make the most of upcoming Council advocacy opportunities through the remainder of 2024.

Recommendation(s)

That the Governance Standing Policy Committee recommends that Council:

1. Approve the recommendation to hold a workshop for all members of City Council at the July 25, 2024 meeting of the Governance Special Purpose Committee to coordinate and prepare for upcoming Council advocacy opportunities during the remainder of 2024.

Financial

N/A

Background and Prior Decisions

City Council adopted the confidential City of Lethbridge Advocacy Plans on [December 12, 2023](#). On June 29, 2023, the [Advocacy Advisory Committee](#) adopted the [City of Lethbridge Advocacy Framework](#).

Council's Advocacy priorities are listed on the City of Lethbridge [website](#), and are as follows:

TOP PRIORITIES

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion
- Water Treatment Plant Expansion
- Healthcare Recruitment
- Sober Shelter
- Supportive Housing
- Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) Funding

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

- Airport Runway Expansion
- Airport Terminal Expansion
- Community Cleanliness & Safety
- Highway 3 Bridge Replacement & Interchange Improvements
- Low-Income Transit Pass Funding

Engagement

N/A

Recommendation and Option(s) Analysis

Recent Actions:

- In mid-April, discussions were held at the administrative level with staff across five provincial ministries on several issues. Key among these were two advocacy priorities for the City of Lethbridge:
 - Water and wastewater system expansion
 - Lethbridge Airport expansion
- In accordance with the [Official Business Motion](#) (OBM) approved by City Council on May 14, 2024, a letter was sent by the mayor on June 3, 2024 to the Alberta Health Minister acknowledging the collaborative efforts to date toward recruitment of family physicians and advocating for specific recruitment efforts, as well, in specialty areas such as anesthesiology, cardiology, child and adolescent mental health, diagnostic imaging, emergency medicine, geriatrics, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and pain management. The mayor's letter expressed the City's continued willingness to explore additional areas for collaboration.
- Further to the direction from Council in the May 14 OBM, an update to the Family Physician Action Plan is in progress and is expected to return for consideration at the July 23, 2024 meeting of City Council.

Current & Upcoming Actions and Advocacy Opportunities in 2024:

Much work is ongoing at the administrative level to lay the foundation and prepare for several Council advocacy opportunities during the remainder of 2024 and beyond. These include but are not limited to the annual Alberta Municipalities conference in September as well as the Team Lethbridge mission in November.

Recommendation:

- To ensure sufficient preparation and coordination of Council members for these advocacy opportunities during the remainder of 2024, it is recommended that a workshop be held for all members of City Council at the July 25, 2024 meeting of the Governance Special Purpose Committee.

Attachment(s)

None

Link(s)

1. December 12, 2023 [City Council Meeting](#)
2. June 29, 2023 [Advocacy Advisory Committee](#)
3. [City of Lethbridge Advocacy Framework](#)
4. May 14, 2024 [Official Business Motion](#)

Approvals

Department Director: Nicole Mitton

City Manager: Lloyd Brierley