

Council highlights

Delegation ~ Cochrane Library Board

Chuck Love, Vice Chair, and Melissa Legacy, Library Director, provided an update to Committee of the Whole on several items including, Staffing, Plan of Service 2024–2026, Facility Assessment & Future Needs, and 75th Anniversary Planning.

Delegation ~ Innovate Cochrane

Nathan Klassen, Board Chair, Innovate Cochrane, provided an overview of Innovate Cochrane, highlighting their strategic alignment for a vibrant community with the Town of Cochrane's vision as articulated in Envision Cochrane 2050 and detailed the impact of the \$25,000 investment from Economic Development. Innovate Cochrane is an organization dedicated to fostering connected, entrepreneurial and innovation-focused culture in Cochrane.

Planning Services ~ Technology Needs

Assessment

In March 2025, Planning Services retained the services of Tantus Solutions Group Inc. (Tantus), a consultant for technology and business alignment, to aid in the completion of a technology needs assessment that: Benchmarks Cochrane's Planning Services Department against other peer municipalities, Identifies the technology needs of Planning Services & other internal interest holding departments, and; provides a recommended budget for the procurement, implementation and sustainment of a workflow management technology solution to modernize Cochrane's planning application processes. This scope of work is intended to inform Capital and Operating budget requests for the 2026–2028 budget cycle that are required to modernize the processes and technology support for Planning Services.

Community Growth Mid-Year Report 2025

Community Growth is a Section within the Development & Infrastructure Services Division and is comprised of the Planning Services, Safety Codes and Economic Development Departments. A summary of each Department was provided.

Ice Surface(s) ~ Preliminary Information

On May 12, 2025, Council passed a Notice of Motion directing Administration to explore the feasibility of adding additional ice surfaces adjacent to the Cochrane Arena site, including potential costs and site suitability. Michelle Ambrose, Director, Parks & Active Living, presented a preliminary review recommending that a comprehensive feasibility study be undertaken. This study would examine the community's full ice needs, including utilization rates, design options, and costing for a new Twin Arena facility.

This item is scheduled to come back to the September 8, 2025 Regular Council meeting for approval.

Strategic Services Update

Committee of the Whole were provided with an update on the scope of work within the Strategic Services section, which includes Corporate Strategy, Corporate Communications & Engagement, and Intergovernmental Relations. The successes and challenges for each department within the section were shared, as well as the opportunities for continuous improvement into 2026 and beyond.

Strategic Services priorities:

- Advance targeted advocacy with provincial and federal partners on housing, wastewater upgrades, and growth-related infrastructure, positioning Cochrane as a collaborative and solutions-focused municipal leader.
- Expand transparent, accessible communication with residents, utilizing enhanced engagement tools that connect community input directly to Council decision-making.
- Onboard the new Manager of Corporate Strategy and position the role to drive organizational alignment through strong stakeholder relationships and performance reporting.

Extended Producer Responsibility Update

Shawn Tooth, Director, Utilities, gave a status update of the Provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program, including an overview of Cochrane specific agreements, funding availability and potential risks.