

Council highlights

Delegation ~ Helping Hands Society

Alex Montiel, Executive Director, Helping Hands Society Cochrane, provided an update on the community impact and outcomes Helping Hands has achieved since receiving a \$75,000 contribution from the Town in 2024.

Bow River Strategy ~ Draft

Michelle Ambrose, Director, Parks & Active Living, and Kris Nelson, Urban Systems, presented the draft Bow River Strategy for feedback. The strategy was initiated to address concerns surrounding population growth, recreational pressures, and environmental impacts including erosion, habitat disturbance, and water quality.

An updated strategy will be brought back to Council in February for consideration and approval.

Library Planning Project Update

A high-level update, as part of the Cochrane Public Library Facility Needs Assessment and Future Development Plan, was presented by Kieron Hunt, FBM Architecture Ltd. Council feedback will inform the next phase of technical and community-based work.

Natural Environment Protection Task Force ~ 2026 Workplan & Reserve Funding Request

The Natural Environment Protection (NEP) Task Force presented their draft 2026 Workplan to Council for their feedback and consideration. The workplan, which was created through the collective efforts of

committee members including environmental professionals, educators, community leaders, and partner organizations, aligns with Council's strategic priorities and the Task Force Terms of Reference.

Administration will return to Council in February to seek approval of the workplan and associated funding request. If approved, the funding will enable field assessment work to begin in 2026, support volunteer and community education efforts, and ensure the NEP Task Force can deliver on its mandate with measurable impact.

2026 Property Assessment Overview

Ryan Lodermeier, Manager of Assessment Services, provided an update on assessment value changes and shifts for the 2026 assessment year. Property Assessment Notices will be mailed on January 22, 2026.

Economic Development 10-Year Strategic Plan Update

Nicole Hannay, Manager of Economic Development, provided an update on the Cochrane's Economic Development Strategy. The Strategy will establish a long-term, evidence-based framework to guide economic growth, diversification, investment attraction, and workforce development, aligned with the objectives of Envision Cochrane 2050 and Council's priorities.