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HOW THE WEST IS NOW

November 16, 2026
Regular Council

Council highlights

Infrastructure & Operations Section Update

Council received an update from Infrastructure & Operations, the division responsible for roads, parks and open spaces, cemeteries, facilities, fleet, and the Town's water, wastewater, stormwater and waste services. Highlights since the last update include completion of the summer paving and sidewalk repair programs, pedestrian improvements on Railway Street and Charlesworth Avenue, the Mitford Ball Diamond shale replacement, new fencing and gates at the Jim Uffelmann Off-Leash Dog Park, and replacement of the RancheHouse boilers with a more efficient system. Snow-clearing and ice-control routes have been increased from three to four to improve consistency of coverage this winter.

The report also noted that the Operations site and yard have reached capacity, which is increasing reliance on contracted services as the Town continues to grow. A dedicated update on Utilities will be provided to Council in May 2027.

Delegation ~ Cochrane Library Board

Chuck Love, Chair of the Cochrane Library Board, presented to Council on the impact of recent budget proposals on public access, programming and community services. The Library Board is requesting an 18% budget increase to address rising operating costs, maintain existing services and begin addressing essential facility needs.

Council accepted the presentation for information.

Cochrane Economic Development 10-Year Strategy (2026–2036)

Council received the draft Cochrane Economic Development 10-Year Strategy for information. The Strategy sets the Town's long-range framework for business growth and retention, economic diversification, investment attraction and long-term community prosperity, and is rooted in Envision Cochrane 2050. It was developed by Colliers Project Leaders in collaboration with Administration and informed by more than 450 community touchpoints, including a community survey, focus groups with business and community leaders, and interviews with members of Council.

The Strategy identifies five target sectors: tourism; creative economy; technology and innovation; light industrial and specialized manufacturing; and distribution, logistics and regional hub. It does not approve individual projects or commit Council to specific funding, which remain subject to future Council direction and annual budget approval.

Administration will return to Council by June 30, 2027 with a full performance measurement framework and will provide the first annual progress report by December 2027.

Council Highlights is a summary of actions and decisions; it is not an official record of the meeting. For the full archive of agendas and minutes, visit cochrane.ca/agendas. Questions or comments: Legislative@cochrane.ca

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Bylaw 17/2026 ~ Rates, Charges & Fees

Bylaw 17/2026 proposes to consolidate the Town's municipal rates, fees and charges, which are currently spread across individual bylaws, administrative schedules and the budget, into a single bylaw. This includes fees for animal and business licensing, cemetery services, fire services, planning and development applications, safety codes permits, water and wastewater utilities, transit, waste management, facility bookings and recreation. The bylaw also amends 15 existing bylaws to reference the consolidated fee schedule and sets consistent rules for payments, refunds, deposits and unpaid amounts. The bylaw is proposed to come into effect January 1, 2027.

Council gave First Reading to Bylaw 17/2026.

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