

# MEMO

**TO:** Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

**FROM:** Andrew Fisher, Director of Planning & Strategic Initiatives

**DATE:** April 15, 2024

**RE:** **Strategic Priorities Update**

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The following provides an update on the 2024 Project-based Strategic Priorities listed below that were adopted by Council in January. Updates to Ongoing Core Priorities are provided to the Committee within other reports.

<b>Project-based Priorities</b>	
Community Centre	Municipal Planning Strategy Renewal
Mobility Strategy	Supply of Suitable Affordable Housing
<b>Ongoing Core Priorities</b>	
Community Vibrancy	Drugs and Addiction
Social Needs	Community Collaboration
Economic Development	

## 2024 Strategic Priority

### Title: **Community Centre Feasibility Study**

Project Goal: Construction and operation of a financially feasible modern multi-purpose complex that includes an environmentally friendly, safe and inclusive facility that meets the needs of our citizens and partners by promoting community pride, healthy active lifestyles, and vibrancy that reflects community values and heritage.

Responsible Department: Planning and Strategic Initiatives

Current Status: The final report was presented to In-Camera Council in October. Council gave direction to meet with potential partners and land owners of the favoured location. These discussions are ongoing.

1. Staff have since met with the owner of the preferred site. They are interested in selling us the property. They are currently preparing non-disclosure agreements as well as a pro forma for the property. Staff have been requesting updates on the status of the NDA.
2. Staff have met with representatives from Indigenous and Northern Affairs. We asked for advice on how to ensure that the local Mi'kmaq culture is represented and included in the facility. We also spoke about potential partnerships including the Assembly of Atlantic Mi'kmaq Chiefs. They were very appreciative and receptive and agreed to put us in contact with relevant officials.
3. Staff met with a representative with the YMCA who remain engaged.
4. Staff were advised that one of the property owners at or near the preferred location is not interested in discussions at this time.

### Future Actions:

1. Meet with potential stakeholders particularly Cumberland County (Ongoing)
2. Develop a high-level funding needs / costs impact document (~~April~~ May)
3. Meet with additional equity deserving users / stakeholders (~~March~~ April / May / June)
4. Determine uses / users included (May / June)
5. Decision on 'moving forward' (June)
6. Develop plan for implementation (September)

2024 Strategic Priority

Title: **Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) Review**

Project Goal: A new MPS that provides a policy framework to guide future decisions on the physical, environmental, economic, social, and cultural development of the town.

Responsible Department: Planning and Strategic Initiatives

Current Status: Drafts of the MPS & LUB have been reviewed by the PAC. Staff are working on revisions to the drafts that will be provided to the consultant.

Future Actions:

1. Focused draft to PAC.  
Due Date: April

2. Further review of draft document at PAC  
Due Date: May

3. PAC Recommendation  
Due Date: June

4. First Reading by Council  
Due Date: June

5. Public Hearing  
Due Date: July

6. Second Reading  
Due Date: August

2024 Strategic Priority

Title: **Mobility Strategy**

Project Goal: Establishment of a mobility strategy for the town including: Active Transportation improvements; Transit Study; Physical Activity opportunities.

Responsible Departments: Community Wellbeing, Planning and Strategic Initiatives, Operations

Current Status: A suite of Active Transportation and physical activity infrastructure upgrades were included in the 2024/25 Capital Budget. A discussion paper that outlined considerations for a transit system was presented to Council in January. A draft Active Living Strategy is in the final stages and will be presented to Council. Staff have created a Mobility Strategy working group to consider next steps and develop a work plan for Council's consideration.

Discussion:

Future Actions:

1. A suite of AT and physical activity infrastructure improvements were included in the Capital Budget.

Due Date: ~~2024/25 projects to be determined with approval of the Capital Budget.~~ Work to be completed this construction season

2. Strategy Working Group Established

Due Date: April

3. Create a Strategy Framework and project work plan

Due Date: June 2025