



## **COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT**

**Meeting Date:** 21 January 2025  
**Subject:** Amendments to the Social Policy  
**Directorate:** Community Safety and Social Services

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### **Issue:**

Council is being asked to repeal the current Social Policy and approve a new version with amendments that align with Council's new committee structure, current policy standards, and minor edits to better reflect the intent of the principles.

### **Policy / Council Direction:**

The Social Policy aligns with Council's Caring Community Focus Area.

### **Background:**

#### *Rationale and Development of the Social Policy*

The [Social Policy \(2020\)](#) was endorsed unanimously by Council with the intent to help guide the municipality in taking social considerations into account in decision-making related to policies, programs and initiatives, and to help strengthen the social well-being of residents.

The Social Policy affirms the municipality's commitment to residents' social well-being and establishes guiding principles – set by Council – to inform decisions and actions. The principles set a common philosophical basis for decision-making, while maintaining enough flexibility to offer decision-makers the autonomy to choose the most effective approaches for achieving goals in line with Council's vision.

Given the foundational role of local government in the stewardship of civil society, the Social Policy helps direct a unified and proactive approach to prevent and respond to social issues at the earliest opportunity. The Social Policy also upholds the municipality's alignment with legal and ethical frameworks for human rights, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Alberta Human Rights Act, and anti-discrimination laws. Ultimately, applying the principles in the Social Policy across municipal services supports the City in strengthening residents' social well-being and improving their quality of life.

### *Proposed Changes to the Social Policy*

Minor changes are being proposed for the Social Policy, which fall into three categories:

1. Edits to reflect the changes made to Council's committee structure;
2. Minor edits for clarity and alignment with current policy standards (e.g. minor edits in capitalization; minor section changes); and
3. Minor edits in the definitions of the principles to better reflect current language best practices and better express the intent of the principles; namely:
  - a. To be more inclusive to diversity in all its aspects;
  - b. To acknowledge residents' choice to participate in social and civic life;
  - c. To emphasize equity for all residents; and
  - d. To accommodate for a broadened understanding of sustainability.

The edits do not alter the intent, meaning or purpose of the original Social Policy. Rather, they are intended to better express the spirit of the principles endorsed by Council.

#### **Council Committee Routed Through:**

The report was routed through the Community Safety and Social Services Committee, who endorsed the Social Policy amendments unanimously.

#### **Administration Recommendation:**

That Council endorses the new Social Policy COM-72-C as presented and repeals Social Policy COM-63-C.

#### **Alternatives/Implications:**

1. Council could direct Administration to return with additional, specific information.

#### **Budget Implications:**

There are no associated budget implications.

#### **Communications and Engagement:**

A communications and engagement plan is not required.

**Recommendation:**

That Council endorses the new Social Policy COM-72-C as presented and repeals Social Policy COM-63-C.

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Jessie Bryant, Social Planner

Staff Presenter:	Jessie Bryant
External Presenter:	N/A
Department:	Social Planning
Reviewed by:	Kevin Weinberger
Attachments:	#1: Proposed Social Policy with Amendments #2: Social Policy Redline Tracker