



COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date:	18 February 2025
Subject:	Research and Engagement Summary Report — Community Facilities Needs Assessment
Directorate:	Community Services

Issue:

Council is being presented with the results of the research and engagement phase of the Community Facilities Needs Assessment.

Policy / Council Direction:

One of Council's focus is on leisure, recreation and culture that will meet the demands of Airdrie's growing population with four-season opportunities for recreation and social connection through events and arts and culture, all of which are highly valued by our community and enhance residents' quality of life. The City has two aging facilities (also known as Legacy Facilities) the Town and Country Centre (built circa 1977) and Nose Creek Valley Museum (built circa 1988). A Community Facilities Needs Assessment is intended to understand whether these facilities continue to meet Airdrie's demands and what options might be available for Council's consideration to meet unmet needs.

Background:

The City retained the services of RC Strategies to conduct a Community Facilities Needs Assessment to understand unmet needs and priorities relative to social gathering, cultural, heritage, older adult leisure activities and other types of spaces. Information gathered from the community residents and users of two City-owned legacy buildings, namely the Town and Country Centre and the Museum, will inform options for future decision whether to lifecycle renewal, repurpose or expand these facilities.

The work of RC Strategies has been divided into two phases: 1) the Research and Engagement Phase and 2) Facility Needs Assessment Phase. This report is the first phase, a summary of the engagement findings based on community engagement conducted in Q3 2024. It also includes secondary research data to understand how other comparable communities address similar issues, trends and best practices.

The Engagement Plan used different tactics to ensure a balanced approach to gathering community input and perspectives including: a household coded access survey which resulted in 1,138 responses with a margin of error of +/-2.9% (19 out of 20).

An open access survey with 145 responses was also provided to residents to capture those who may have missed/lost the postcard with access code to provide their input. A survey of 12 community groups that utilize these two facilities was conducted to explore the activities, utilization, needs and ability partner with the City. This was followed by 11 meetings with 13 key groups to better understand their perspectives and to address concerns they may have about the engagement method and purpose. The objectives of the tactics used in the Engagement Plan was to gather greater understanding and insight into:

- How the public and community organizations use the Town and Country Centre and Nose Creek Valley Museum.
- The value associated with these facilities.
- Satisfaction with current opportunities.
- Barriers and challenges impacting access to leisure, social gathering, culture, heritage, older adult activity opportunities.
- Gaps pertaining to leisure, social gathering, culture, heritage and older adult activity spaces.

Attached is an Executive Summary of the Research and Engagement Summary Report that synthesizes the engagement process and key findings. The full Report is made available on the City website shall Council wishes to read in full details. [2025-02-04 ACFNA Research and Engagement Summary Report.pdf](#)

Next Steps – Council will be presented with options in the final Community Facilities Needs Assessment Report on April 1, 2025. To aid in creating options, RC Strategies will explore ways to prioritize criteria for different options to meet community needs and their implications on both capital planning, investments and operations. The consultant will review remaining lifespan and budget range for best future uses of these spaces and realistic best move forward options including high level cost estimates based on a cost-benefit analysis.

Council Committee Routed Through:

N/A

Administration Recommendation:

That Council accepts the Research and Engagement Summary Report for information.

Alternatives/Implications:

N/A

Budget Implications:

N/A

Communications and Engagement:

The key findings have been shared with community groups who have participated in the engagement process as stakeholders on February 5, 2025. 15 representatives from seven community groups attended the information session. The goal was to recognize their contributions through the engagement process and inform them of the next steps to present the findings to Council and develop options for future consideration.

Recommendation:

That Council accepts the presentation of the Culture and Leisure Facilities Research and Engagement Summary Report, for information.

Clay Aragon
Manager Culture, Heritage and Events

Staff Presenter:	Clay Aragon
External Presenter:	Steve Slawuta, Managing Partner and Project Lead; Rob Parks-Project Engagement – RC Strategies
Department:	Community Services
Reviewed by:	ELT
Attachments:	#1: Research and Engagement Summary Report #2: 2025-02-04 ACFNA Research and Engagement Summary Report.pdf