



## **COMMUNITY & CORPORATE SERVICES – AGENDA REPORT**

**Meeting Date:** 25 March 2025

**Subject:** Research and Engagement Summary Report—Community Facilities Needs Assessment

**Directorate:** Community Services

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### **Issue:**

The Community and Corporate Services Standing Committee is being provided with the results of the research and engagement phase of the Community Facility Needs Assessment.

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

This report was presented to Council on February 18, 2025. The Standing Committee is being presented with the same report for information because they are responsible for policy matters and programs related to recreation facility and amenity planning.

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.

**Research and Engagement Summary Report (Full Report NOT attached, use the link provided below)**

Attached is an Executive Summary of the Research and Engagement Summary Report that synthesizes the engagement process and key findings. The full Report is available on the City website if the CCS Committee wishes to read the 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 in May 2025 to allow time for Administration and its consultant to engage with community stakeholder groups of the options for the two legacy facilities. 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.

**Administration Recommendation:**

That the Community and Corporate Standing Committee accepts this report for information.

**Alternatives/Implications:**

This report is for information only and alternatives do not apply.

**Budget Implications:**

The cost implications of the different options will be presented to Council as part of the final Community Facilities Needs Assessment Report.

**Communications and Engagement:**

The full Research and Engagement Summary Report has been made available publicly for the community to review. Prior to presenting the final Community Facilities Needs Assessment Report, Council has asked that Administration and its consultant RC Strategies loop back with the community groups to inform them of the different options.

**Recommendation:**

That the Community and Corporate Standing Committee accepts the report entitled "Research and Engagement Summary Report - Community Facilities Needs Assessment" for information.

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Manager of Culture, Heritage and Events

Staff Presenter:	Clay Aragon
External Presenter:	None at this time
Department:	Community Services
Reviewed by:	ELT
Attachments:	#1: Research and Engagement Findings and Highlights Executive Summary