

Community Services Report to
Community Development Committee
2026 May 06

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
CD2026-0081

Safer Together. A Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan for Calgary

PURPOSE

To present *Safer Together: A Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan for Calgary (Safer Together)* (Attachment 1), for Council approval. Safety is essential to a vibrant, livable city and to the quality of life for all Calgarians.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

The plan advances Council's 2027–2030 Strategic Priorities: Safe City, Community Livability & Wellbeing, and Trusted & Collaborative Government.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Committee recommend that Council:

1. Approve *Safer Together: A Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan for Calgary*.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

The Executive Leadership Team is confident that the new coordinated approach outlined in *Safer Together* will help address Calgary's growing and emerging safety needs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Safer Together* provides a plan for a city where every Calgarian feels safe, connected, supported and that they belong. The plan's shared vision will evolve how The City and its partners think, invest and take action to advance public safety and wellbeing.
- Without coordinated, evidence-based action across a continuum of approaches (incident response, risk intervention, prevention and social development), crime, social disorder and poor perceptions of safety will continue to increase.
- *Safer Together* is a collaboration between 22 City business units, and was created through consultation with community organizations, the Calgary Police Service, civic partners, community associations, business improvement areas and City boards, commissions, and committees. It will strengthen citywide coordination and support advocacy to other orders of government to better serve Calgarians.
- With the long-term vision of *Safer Together* in place, The City can quickly move to action by building on existing initiatives and creating new opportunities through a fiscally responsible investment ask in the next four-year budget cycle that makes Calgary measurably safer and helps Calgarians feel safer.

DISCUSSION

Calgary is growing quickly, bringing new opportunities while also introducing new community safety challenges and complexities. Through surveys, online feedback and engagement, Calgarians consistently identify safety as a top priority. While Calgary's Crime Severity Index shows an overall decline since 2019, recent data indicates increases in property crimes and violent crimes. The Calgary Police Service has also noted concerning trends in social disorder,

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hate crimes and domestic violence. When people feel unsafe or experience a safety incident, the impacts include physical and emotional harm, costs to society and diminished public trust. Ultimately, a person's sense of safety deeply influences their wellbeing and quality of life.

In July 2024, the City's Executive Leadership Team directed Administration to develop a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan for Calgary. The plan was developed in collaboration with the Calgary Police Service, 22 City business units and in consultation with community organizations, to respond to Calgarians' safety concerns. Community safety and wellbeing plans are being implemented in cities across Canada and are demonstrating measurable results such as reduced crime and emergency calls, better coordination, increased perceptions of safety, belonging and stronger crisis response.

We have seen similar successes with recent projects focused on improved coordination such as Action Table Calgary, 911/211 colocation and Community Hub models. However, to achieve lasting improvements in safety, Calgary needs a large-scale, coordinated plan that builds on lessons learned and transforms the way we work together.

Safer Together provides a shared vision, effective coordination and partnerships, shared data and reporting through a common framework anchored in strong return on investment and measurable results. The plan recognizes that community safety is shaped by multiple factors, and focusing only on incident response comes with higher costs that will not deliver sustainable results. Accordingly, *Safer Together* advances a best practice approach across a continuum: incident response, risk intervention, prevention, and social development. This approach supports Calgary's safety ecosystem by focusing actions in a coordinated way, so that Emergency Management & Community Safety, the Calgary Fire Department, Calgary Transit, Mobility, Parks & Open Spaces, the Calgary Police Service and others can provide the right response at the right time.

Safer Together advances municipal purpose under the Alberta Municipal Government Act to "develop and maintain safe and viable communities", mitigates The City's principal corporate risk of Social Wellbeing and advances Council's 2027–2030 Strategic Priorities: *Safe City, Community Livability & Wellbeing, and Trusted & Collaborative Government*.

The development of *Safer Together* was shaped by a Community Safety and Wellbeing Steering Committee, which includes various business units and Calgary Police Service leaders. Extensive engagement from across the corporation also occurred including monthly development committee meetings.

Administration is developing the implementation plan for *Safer Together's* five priorities and 15 collaborative actions. Implementation will drive coordination, partnerships, community funding and targeted projects to improve services, programs and public spaces. *Safer Together* will also strengthen how performance is measured and reported to the public, demonstrating the return on investment of a comprehensive, upstream approach that alleviates pressure on more costly emergency responses.

Safer Together: A Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan for Calgary

By transforming the way, we work together, Calgary will be measurably safer: Calgarians will report improved safety and perceptions of safety, stronger incident response, increased access to supports and services, and a greater sense of belonging and quality of life.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

Feedback from Calgarians collected by The City between 2017 and 2025 through surveys, engagement and research, informed the development of *Safer Together*. External engagement sessions were conducted in three phases through online feedback and facilitated workshops with local community organizations, civic partners, community associations, business improvement areas and related City boards, commissions and committees. The sessions identified barriers, opportunities and implementation supports required. In total, over 250 people participated through workshops, online feedback forms and one-on-one interviews.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Safety is essential to a vibrant, livable city and to the quality of life for all Calgarians. By supporting the upstream efforts of prevention and social development, we can avoid serious incidents before they happen and prevent the escalation of crises into more costly interventions. *Safer Together* will address the root causes of social concerns identified through engagement, including isolation, belonging, social disorder and the desire for more welcoming communities as part of a comprehensive approach to improve safety for Calgarians.

Environmental

The plan provides a roadmap to build community resilience and to consider the environmental factors that contribute to wellbeing such as safe natural spaces, tree canopy and responses to extreme weather events.

Economic

Safety and perceptions of safety impact economic investment, business vitality, tourism and neighbourhood vibrancy. Costs associated with safety concerns include security, repairs to damaged property, clean-up, poor citizen engagement, decreased employment participation, lost revenues and workforce recruitment challenges. Calgarians who are safe and well contribute to a diverse and healthy economy and are more resilient to economic shocks. Studies show that every \$1 spent on prevention can save between \$7–\$12 through avoided future costs, contributing to a stronger economy.

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Service and Financial Implications

New operating funding request

Cross-corporate investments from multiple business units required to advance *Safer Together* will be brought forward through the 2027–2030 business plan and budget process.

RISK

The risk of not approving the *Safer Together* Plan:

Community safety: Improving safety for Calgarians requires the shared vision, priorities, and actions outlined in *Safer Together* and builds upon lessons learned. The plan aligns efforts and implements evidence-based best practices in a coordinated way. This decreases the risk of fragmented initiatives, inefficient use of resources, unintended duplication, and weaker corporate accountability for safety and wellbeing outcomes.

Social wellbeing: The City's 2025 Corporate Principal Risk Profile identifies Social Wellbeing Risk as high and trending upward; implementing the collaborative actions in *Safer Together* is a key mechanism to mitigate this risk.

The risk of approving the *Safer Together* Plan:

Capacity and sustainability: Delivering the plan will require sustained funding and staffing capacity over the next four-year budget cycle and beyond. To mitigate this risk, Administration will bring forward a phased implementation approach and identify funding requirements through the service and budget process.

Public expectations: Addressing complex social issues takes time and results may not be immediate. If perceptions of safety do not improve quickly, or if crime increases, residents may conclude the plan is not effective. To mitigate this risk, The City will report progress to Council and Calgarians regularly.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. *Safer Together: A Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan for Calgary*
2. *Safer Together: Community Development Committee Presentation Slides May 6, 2026*

Department Circulation

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| General Manager/Director | Department | Approve/Consult/Inform |
| David Duckworth | Chief Administrative Office | Approve |
| Stuart Dalgleish | Chief Operating Office | Approve |
| Katie Black | Community Services | Approve |
| Jill Floen | Law, Legislative Services & Security | Consult |

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| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|
| Debra Hamilton | Planning & Development Services | Consult |
| Jennifer Kapala | People, Innovation & Collaborative Services | Consult |
| Doug Morgan | Operational Services | Consult |
| Michael thompson | Infrastructure Services | Consult |
| Les Tochor | Corporate Planning & Financial Services | Consult |
| Erendira Cervantes-Altamirano | Community Strategies | Approve |
| Kay Choi | Partnerships - Public Safety Lead | Consult |
| Iain Bushell | Emergency Management & Community Safety | Consult |
| Thom Mahler | Downtown Strategies | Consult |
| Steve Dongworth | Calgary Fire Department | Consult |
| Reid Hendry | Housing | Consult |
| Sharon Fleming | Calgary Transit | Consult |
| Kyle Ripley | Parks & Open Spaces | Consult |
| Ian Fleming | Recreation & Social Programs | Consult |
| Nicole Newton | Climate & Environment | Consult |
| Troy McLeod | Mobility | Consult |
| Mike Tillotson | Corporate Security | Consult |
| Christopher Collier | Occupational Health & Safety | Consult |
| Greg Juliano | Human Resources | Consult |

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