



Council Strategic Priorities

2024-2026



LAKE COUNTRY

Life. The Okanagan Way.

District of Lake Country Council



Blair Ireland
Mayor



Bib Patel
Councillor - At Large



Cara Reed
Councillor - Carrs Landing



Heather Irvine
Councillor - Winfield



Michael Lewis
Councillor - At Large



Todd McKenzie
Councillor - Oyama



Tricia Brett
Councillor - Okanagan Centre



Our Vision

Lake Country, living the Okanagan way.
Embracing our histories and nurturing
our future.

Our Mission

We serve to nurture a healthy natural
environment, strong rural character and
urban core, sustainable infrastructure,
economic opportunities, an inclusive
community with involved citizens,
through respectful, transparent
government, focused on balanced
strategic decision-making.



Our Strategic Priorities



Infrastructure



Environment & Climate Action



Economic Prosperity



Governance



Community



Infrastructure



We will invest in developing, maintaining and improving our utility systems, transportation networks, recreation assets, civic facilities and organizational capacity to meet the needs of the growing community. We will seek innovative and creative solutions that are cost-effective and affordable to ratepayers. Our commitment to the environment, and to resiliency in the face of change, will inform our infrastructure decisions.

Focus Areas

Fire Protection

We will continue to invest in mitigation initiatives, and will enhance our capacity to respond to a range of fire-related emergencies, guided by a set of risk-informed service levels that reflect the needs and characteristics of Lake Country.

Wastewater

We will make investments, on our own and in collaboration with the City of Kelowna, to provide the sewage infrastructure required to address existing needs and accommodate future growth.

Water

We will work to ensure that all parts of the community have equitable access to water that is safe and affordable, satisfies water quality requirements, provides for improved fire protection and takes into account future growth projections.

Transportation

We will increase mobility throughout the community by providing greater access to public transit, enhancing the District's active transportation network, introducing new transportation options and seeking improvements to the Highway 97 Corridor.



Environment & Climate Action



We will create incentives to curb greenhouse gas emissions, and build resiliency. We will enhance the health of our lakes, optimize our natural assets and promote conservation. All of the decisions we take as a local government will take into consideration the protection of our natural environment and our commitment to climate action.

Focus Areas

Incentive-based Change

We will provide tools, incentives and information to encourage greenhouse gas reduction, reduce footprints, promote responsible growth and protect natural assets in the community. Where necessary, we will supplement incentives with regulations to direct decisions and change behaviour.

Water

We will collaborate with regional agencies, provincial and federal governments, local governments, First Nations and community groups to restore and protect foreshores, promote watershed stewardship, advance water conservation efforts, encourage responsible lake use and enhance the health of our lakes.

Resiliency

We will continue to invest in programs and approaches to adapt to a changing climate, and to protect the community from floods, heatwaves, wildfires and other disasters.



Economic Prosperity



On our own and in collaboration with our partners we will diversify Lake Country's tax base, and create a complete community with economic opportunities and economic prosperity for those who call Lake Country home.

Focus Areas

Tax Base

We will identify and promote the development of employment lands (Class 5 and Class 6).

Downtown Core

We will promote the economic development of the community's downtown core, including Main Street.

Role of District

We will oversee the expansion of the District's in-house economic development function as the preferred service model for promoting sustainable economic opportunities, investment and economic growth in Lake Country.

Agriculture

We will initiate and support efforts to bolster the role of agriculture and agri-tourism as economic drivers.

Tourism

We will expand our organizational and financial capacity, including through participation in the Municipal Regional District Tax program and Destination British Columbia, to identify and develop tourism opportunities in Lake Country.



Governance



We will ensure that community input is at the heart of our decision-making. We will expand and nurture our relationships with other governments, seeking ways to leverage our resources for the benefit of Lake Country. Our advocacy to other orders of government will focus on finding areas of alignment to promote our priorities.

Focus Areas

Official Community Plan

We will engage the community in the development of our renewed Official Community Plan that, as the District's chief policy document, will be used to guide the growth of Lake Country as a thriving, sustainable and resilient community.

Intergovernmental Relations

We will build relationships and, where we share common ground, work in partnership with the Okanagan Indian Band, other Indigenous governments, local governments throughout the Okanagan, and other orders of government.

Advocacy

We will undertake our own initiatives, and will work through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the Southern Interior Local Government Association, and other local governments and partners in the Okanagan, to liaise with other orders of government and secure support for Lake Country's interests and priorities.

Communications

In our decision-making and in our delivery of services, we will communicate regularly with our community in ways that are clear, consistent, transparent and proactive.



Community



We will continue to build a complete community with a high quality of life in which people are safe, active and healthy.

Focus Areas

Housing

We will continue to provide incentives, further streamline our development approval processes, and work in other ways to support the development of housing options to address gaps identified in our *2024 Interim Housing Needs Report*.

Health Care

We will engage the Ministry of Health, Interior Health, Central Okanagan Regional Hospital District, KGH Foundation and other parties to identify and secure support for community-based health services that meet the needs of Lake Country's growing and diverse population.

Parks, Recreation and Culture

We will expand facility-based recreation services, parks, greenspaces and outdoor recreation amenities to meet growing community demand.

Protective Services

We will advance the development of the RCMP Lake Country Detachment building, and will work with Lake Country RCMP, Bylaw Enforcement, and Lake Country Fire Department to define and achieve Lake Country's protective services priorities.





District of Lake Country

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