

# The Council Strategic Plan | Reference Guide

## WHAT THE COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN DOES:



### Sets Council Priorities

It translates community input into defined priorities that Council will focus on progressing or achieving during the 4-year term.



### Guides Decision-Making

It provides clear direction to Administration, enabling the Corporate Business Plan, resources and budget to be allocated in a way that advances Council's priorities.



### Enables Communication and Accountability

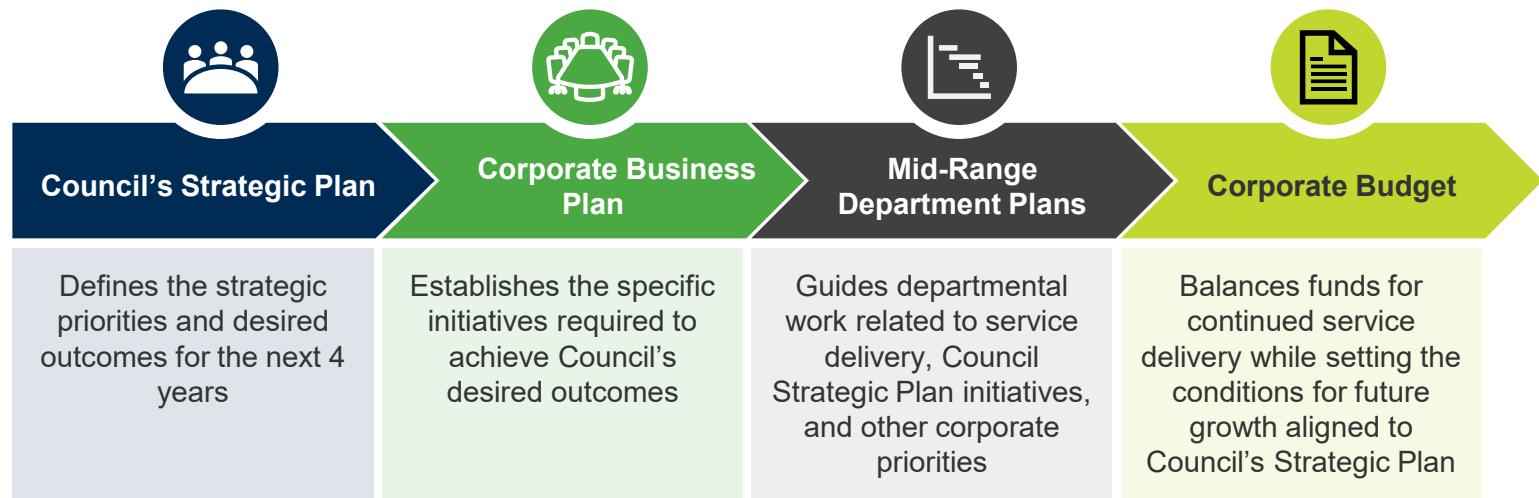
It allows Council and Administration to easily communicate priorities to external stakeholders, as well as track and communicate progress.

## WHERE IT FITS IN THE CORPORATE PLANNING PROCESS:

The Council Strategic Plan sets the direction for the organization over a four-year horizon. It outlines **what Council aims to achieve** during their term and **explains why these priorities matter**. The plan then guides Administration's development of the **Corporate Business Plan** which **describes how** the organization will work toward accomplishing Council goals.

The **Corporate Business Plan** provides direction to other components of corporate planning. It informs departmental plans that help City departments prioritize and implement initiatives that advance Council's priorities, and it informs the **corporate budget** which guides spending decisions to ensure City's financial resources are responsibly managed.

### Illustrative Planning Cascade\*



## OTHER WAYS COUNCIL DIRECTS ADMINISTRATION (BEYOND THE COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN):

The Council Strategic Plan is one of many vehicles for Council to influence change or set direction. The strategic plan is intended to set longer-term direction to help the City of St. Albert achieve its [Community Vision](#), however, Council may also make decisions through:

- Annual Corporate Budget reviews and approvals
- Reviews, amendments and annual approvals of community-facing services and service levels (i.e., Service Level Inventory)
- Passing, updating, or amending city bylaws, policies and motions

\*The Illustrative Planning Cascade is an extract of the City's larger Strategic Planning Framework described in the [City of St. Albert Strategic Framework Policy](#).