



**Enabling Motion
For the June 19, 2025 Committee of the Whole**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** June 19, 2025
From: Mayor Alto
Subject: Enabling Consideration of a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan

Background

In July 2023, Council adopted a motion to initiate work on a Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB) Plan, pursuant to the direction provided in the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

This work began in August 2023, when a panel of community leaders was appointed to oversee the creation of a plan, including the undertaking of a community engagement process, data analysis, and drafting of the plan.

The plan, called *hølisæt* (in Lekwungen: *Bringing to life; awakening*), was completed this spring. It contains 99 recommendations in eight sections: housing; healthcare; service delivery; downtown; residents; commerce; policing and justice; and the City's community safety and wellbeing services. These sections reflect the priorities expressed by Victorians, and describe the work needed to shape the way we experience each of these sectors, individually and collectively.

The CSWB plan also contains several supplemental appendices that describe the background, engagement, and data analysis, including an Engagement Summary, two data analysis reports, the City of Victoria Strategic Plan, the initial enabling Council Member Motion, public news releases, and two subsequent Council update memos which were delivered on March 14 and August 1, 2024.

The CSWB plan's recommendations were developed from extensive community outreach, data collection, and analysis. Created by the community, with additional input from Council, the recommendations are a collective representation of the community's key concerns. Community is at the heart of this work.

The recommendations are grouped according to which agency has the authority to act on them. Some recommendations are directed at other orders of government and can be supported by the City through advocacy and collaboration.

The remaining actions are designed to reorganize key City services to enhance and sustain community safety and wellbeing, while bringing attention to critical areas that need cooperative effort from multiple actors.

The plan responds to the acute street disorder and safety issues that Council, and the community, have witnessed, and on which all Victorians have demanded action. The plan also reimagines widespread changes to how different entities interact with and deliver services to community, acknowledging the complex social determinants of wellbeing.

This plan acknowledges the good work done in community by service providers, police, city staff, and residents every day, and that there is more work to do to address the community's concerns. The CSWB plan outlines the steps needed to do that work, in the immediate and longer term. It also anticipates the need to be active and alive, to adapt, adjust and respond to the evolving circumstances and demands of Victorians.

Recommendations in the plan within the city's ambit that are ongoing, or could be actioned within this fiscal year, are designed to fit within existing budgets and operations. Recommendations to be actioned in other years need analysis and assessment to fully understand their budget implications. The enabling motion below accounts for that analysis and assessment, and permits fast action, if opportunities arise that support or align with the plan.

The recommendations in this plan align with much of the work that this Council has undertaken and reflect Council's clear directive to do whatever is necessary to ensure that Victoria is a livable, safe, and welcoming community.

In addition to delivering the entire Community Well-Being and Safety section of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, the CSWB Plan also supports Council's Strategic Plan priorities for Housing; Transportation; Parks, Recreation, and Gathering Spaces; and Economic Health and Community Vitality.

Built on its own strategic plan and understanding the social crises currently challenging Victoria, Council has the opportunity to support a comprehensive compendium of actions and advice that, if implemented with courage, pragmatism and compassion, will intentionally, realistically change the experience and perception of community safety and wellbeing in our city.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the helisæt Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan in principle.
2. Direct the Mayor to engage City partners and other orders of government on the Plan's components and recommendations that require regional, provincial and/or federal support.
3. Direct City staff to:
 - (a) Assess and identify the plan's:
 - i. Budget implications
 - ii. Required policy changes, and
 - iii. Key performance indicators
 - (b) Present City Council with their analyses in advance of the 2026 Draft Budget

deliberations.

4. Direct the City Manager to implement preliminary actions as needed to support the CSWB Plan, within the existing 2025 budget.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mayor Alto", written in a cursive style.

Mayor Alto