

Community Priority: Quality of Life

Citizens' Quality of Life Vision, 2027

“Our shared vision is for Kitchener to be a community that invests in maintaining basic services, in addition to amenities such as community centres, museums, theatres, art galleries, and leisure facilities, even if that means paying higher taxes.”

A great place to live is important to us.

We want our city to be a place of opportunity for ourselves and our children. We want our city to be safe. We want our city to be clean. We appreciate the city's investment in infrastructure. And we appreciate the many special events, the parks, the playgrounds and the cultural activities the city supports annually that make Kitchener an exciting and vibrant city to live in and raise a family.

In Kitchener, we strive to live well.

We do recognize that to continue all of the services that our city provides is not without its challenges as local governments struggle to do more with fewer dollars. But what we must do is more, not less. To enhance the quality of life and economic vibrancy of our city. To make further progress as a healthy community. To attract and retain more residents willing to make Kitchener their home - and willing to invest their future in ours.

Strategic Directions:

To ensure that Kitchener achieves and sustains its vision of broad community health and well being – Compass Kitchener recommends

that the following strategic directions be undertaken:

1. That the city put a permanent Healthy Community framework in place, with the following mandate and structure:
 - The identification of community priorities at the outset of council's term of office and an evaluation of progress against priorities before the end of the current term.
 - The provision of annual status reports to council and citizens to benchmark progress on priorities, community health and well-being.
 - The development of a “healthy community lens” through which council considers major issues and decisions.
 - Provide assistance in developing a strategic financial plan that aligns broad community priorities with the allocation of corporate resources.
 - Is accountable to city council and the citizen's through Compass

Kitchener, the city's citizen advisory committee on community vision, values and priorities, and is accountable to the corporation through the Chief Administrator's Office.

2. That the city establish greater public appreciation and understanding of our cultural heritage resources through various forms of education.
 - That the city protect its cultural heritage resources through the employment of various forms of conservation practice, including designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.
3. That the city highlights arts and culture as a factor critical to the health of the community through supporting goals and objectives of Culture Plan II.
4. That the city works with its many partners - individuals, families, neighbourhoods, organizations and all orders of government - to create a culture of safety, through social development and through increasing the capacity of communities to discuss, define, and address their shared concerns.

Key corporate strategies which support the Quality of Life theme can be found under Appendix 1.1.