

DATE OF MEETING FEBRUARY 11, 2019

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SUBJECT **CONSULTATION PLAN – SINGLE-USE CHECKOUT BAGS REGULATION**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To obtain Council approval to proceed with consultation prior to adoption and implementation of a new bylaw to regulate the use of single-use checkout bags

### **Recommendation**

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council approve the consultation plan as attached and add \$15,350 to the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan, funded from General Taxation.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the Nov-26-2018 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council passed the following motion: “that Council direct staff to prepare a bylaw to regulate the use of single use checkout bags using the City of Victoria’s bylaw as a model and prepare a consultation plan for Council’s review.”

The objective of the consultation plan will be to:

- Inform the public and retailers of the proposed regulatory changes;
- Gather feedback to ensure a smooth implementation of the regulations; and
- Upon approval, educate and inform public and retailers of the specific regulations.

The consultation plan includes communications efforts for both the development of the regulation and the implementation. The target audiences for this consultation plan include local retailers, Nanaimo residents and members of the public who live outside Nanaimo but do significant portions of their shopping within the City.

The consultation plan, as proposed, incorporates feedback from the Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce to meet the concerns of the local business community and lessons learned from other municipalities that have recently developed similar bylaws, including Saanich and Victoria. The proposed consultation plan and draft bylaw are attached for review.

## **OPTIONS**

1. That Council approve the consultation plan as attached and add \$15,350 to the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan, funded from General Taxation.
  - **Budget Implication:** The final 2019-2023 Financial Plan will be amended to include the \$15,350, funded from general taxation.

- **Policy Implication:** The end result of this process is the creation of a new bylaw that will impose new regulations on business in Nanaimo.
  - **Engagement Implication:** The consultation process may mobilize a portion of the community who are resistant to new regulations
  - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** provides a framework through which to reduce pollution
2. That Council provide additional input on the consultation plan, as attached
- **Budget Implication:** The final 2019-2023 Financial Plan will be amended to include the \$15,350, funded from general taxation. Additional input received from Council may have associated costs.
  - **Policy Implication:** The end result of this process is the creation of a new bylaw that will impose new regulations on business in Nanaimo.
  - **Engagement Implication:** The consultation process may mobilize a portion of the community who are resistant to new regulations
  - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** provides a framework through which to reduce pollution
3. That Council provide staff with alternate direction |

#### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Consultation prior to the implementation of a new bylaw to regulate single-use checkout bags is an important factor in implementation success
- The City of Victoria has a court-tested bylaw and has offered it as a template for other jurisdictions to use
- The consultation plan will seek input from retailers and members of the public who do business in the City |

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT A - Single-Use Checkout Bags Regulation Consultation Plan

ATTACHMENT B - DRAFT Bylaw for the Regulation of Single-Use Checkout Bags |

#### **Submitted by:**

David Thompson  
Manager of Sanitation, Recycling and Public  
Works Administration |

#### **Concurrence by:**

Bill Sims  
Director of Engineering and Public Works