

DATE OF MEETING | November 20, 2019 |

AUTHORED BY | JEREMY HOLM, DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS |

SUBJECT | ENVIRONMENTAL POSITION BUSINESS CASE |

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To provide information to the Finance and Audit Committee regarding the requested environmental position business case.

BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting of 2019-JUL-08, Council endorsed the following recommendation from the Finance and Audit Committee:

“It was moved and seconded that the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to prepare a business case regarding the addition of an environmental position focused around coordination of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. The motion carried unanimously.”

This report and attached business case are in response to Council’s motion. |

DISCUSSION

The existing 2012 Community Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) identifies strategies and actions to achieve green house gas (GHG) reductions in the community. A summary of the plan’s specific strategies and actions and their current status is included within the attached business case.

At present, responsibility for the management and implementation of the plan resides with the Engineering & Environment Section within the Development Services Division. In addition to the Manager, the section has three Staff who work on climate action, mitigation, and environmental management. Although the responsibility for the CSAP lies with one section, it is important to note the implementation of the plan is supported by Staff from all divisions, and inputs on projects and initiatives are provided from across the organization.

Council’s 2019-2022 Strategic Plan identifies an update of CSAP as an action item. In relation to this action item and in response to Council’s climate emergency declaration, Staff have included \$75,000 for consulting services in the draft 2020 budget to complete the review and update to the CSAP.

The CSAP review and update project is intended to be completed in conjunction with coordinated strategic policy work (OCP, PRC Plan, and Active Transportation Plan).

In response to Council's 2019-JUL-08 direction regarding an environmental position, Staff developed a business case for a Manager of Sustainability (see Attachment A). This position would be responsible for overseeing the City's climate action, mitigation, and environmental protection initiatives, including implementation of the CSAP. The position has not been included in the draft 2020 budget, as Staff are of the opinion there are sufficient existing resources to oversee the consultant team that will be engaged to complete the CSAP review and update. Once the revised CSAP is completed, Staff will be better able to determine the resources necessary to implement the updated plan.

CONCLUSION

Given the need to review and update the CSAP in order to be able to determine the resources necessary to implement the plan, Staff have not included the Manager of Sustainability position in the 2020 draft budget and are of the opinion that it would be appropriate to defer the consideration of this position until the 2021-2025 Financial Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Business Case – Manager of Sustainability

Submitted by:

Jeremy Holm
Director, Development Approvals

Concurrence by:

Dale Lindsay
General Manager, Development Services

Laura Mercer
Director, Finance