

DATE OF MEETING | February 24, 2020 |

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SUBJECT | **COORDINATED STRATEGIC POLICY REVIEW (2020-2021)
STATUS UPDATE**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the overall Coordinated Strategic Policy Review (2020-2021) process and an update on the Review's progress to date. |

Recommendation

That Council receive the report titled "Coordinated Strategic Policy Review (2020-2021) Status Update" dated 2020-FEB-24, and adopt the attached Coordinated Strategic Policy Review (2020-2021) Terms of Reference.

BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting held 2019-SEP-09, the Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) received a report that provided a draft work plan for the 2020-2021 Coordinated Strategic Policy Review. At this meeting, the GPC passed a motion that Council endorse the draft work plan and adopt the following guiding principles for the review process:

- a. Build on successful policies in existing documents;
- b. Incorporate Council's strategic themes identified in the Strategic Plan: Environmental Responsibility, Governance Excellence, Livability, and Economic Health;
- c. Acknowledge and address the priorities of climate change, reconciliation, and sustainable service delivery;
- d. Include robust community engagement in the creation of plans and strategies;
- e. Provide a clear and coordinated vision to guide community building for the next 25 years; and
- f. Incorporate a monitoring process to measure and track progress.

This recommendation was endorsed at a subsequent Council meeting and Staff were directed to proceed with implementation of the work plan.

One of the first steps identified in the work plan was to return to Council with the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the overall strategic policy review process and provide an update on the review's progress. Subsequently, the purpose of this report is to present Council with the TOR for consideration, and to provide a brief update on the review process and its progress so far. |

DISCUSSION

The focus of the Coordinated Strategic Policy Review is a comprehensive update of a number of key strategic planning policy documents. Central to this undertaking is an update of Nanaimo's 2008 Official Community Plan (OCP), the 2005 Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan (PRCP) and the Active and Sustainable Transportation Plan (ASTP).

Planning and engagement on these plans will be done as part of a broader process that involves coordinating engagement to inform the review and development of other strategic plans including:

- Economic Development Strategy (EDS);
- Water Supply Strategic Plan Update (WSSP); and
- Sustainability (GHG and Adaptation) Plan (SP).

Coordinating community engagement on these interrelated policy documents is intended to maximize community participation, ensure consistency between the plans, ensure efficient resource use, and avoid public confusion and potential engagement fatigue from multiple overlapping planning processes. The process also provides an opportunity to consider combining several plans into one document.

The Strategic Policy Review Process will be overseen by the GPC rather than an appointed steering committee. The City of Nanaimo currently has four committees/task forces with mandates that overlap with different aspects of the review process: the Health and Housing Task Force, the Economic Development Task Force, the Environment Committee, and the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness. These groups will be asked to provide a targeted review on any proposed policy changes relevant to their mandate, as well as provide regular verbal updates on plan progress.

In the initial phase of the process, the project team will develop a coordinated planning and engagement process for the review that achieves the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) "Consult" and "Involve" levels of engagement, while respecting Council's decision-making authority. With the aid of a project consultant, engagement is intended to achieve inclusive and meaningful participation of those typically marginalized and with barriers to participation in traditional planning processes, while remaining broadly thoughtful, interesting, and effective for the general public. The consultation process will also involve engagement with key stakeholders, including those identified at the project outset, and those that may come forward at later points in the consultation process.

While not a formal City committee, additional engagement with neighbourhood associations may also be achieved through the regular updates to the Nanaimo Neighbourhood Network, and direct engagement with the various neighbourhood associations on top priority issue identification.

Coordinated Strategic Policy Review Terms of Reference

In order to operationalize this plan, Staff have prepared the terms of reference (TOR) for the overall Coordinated Strategic Policy Review. The TOR outlines the purpose and goals of the review, guiding principles, process, and timeline under which it will be implemented. For

Council's review and approval, a copy of the TOR is provided in Attachment A: Terms of Reference – Coordinated Strategic Policy Review (2020-2021).

Coordinated Strategic Policy Review Progress to Date

In addition to the TOR, the following key steps have been completed or are pending in the review process since the 2019-SEP-09 report was received by the GPC. For reference purposes, these steps are also outlined in chart form in Attachment B: Coordinated Strategic Policy Review February 2020 Status Update Chart.

Key Council Updates/Decision Points:

Completed to Date:

- September 2019: Strategic Policy Review goals, objectives, and guiding principle endorsed by Council.

To be Completed:

- February 2020: Project Terms of Reference and Status Update.
- March 2020: Community Engagement Framework to Council.
- Future Dates: Ongoing regular updates throughout 2020/2021, including summaries of:
 - Issues and Opportunities;
 - Engagement Outcomes; and
 - Options (development scenarios) and Strategic Directions

Project Management:

Completed to Date:

- Consultant Selection: A consultant has been identified for project engagement and planning through a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSOQ) process. Staff are currently negotiating scope of work and budget with the consultant, with contract finalization anticipated for the end of February 2020.
- Project Charter: A project charter has been drafted and designed to ensure organizational commitment to implementation of the project.
- Terms of Reference: The TOR has been drafted and is attached to this report for Council review.
- Internal Team: An interdepartmental team of project managers has been formed and will meet regularly throughout the Strategic Policy Review process to ensure coordination and avoid duplication of effort.
- Branding: CitySpark project name selected and imaging being refined.

Background Research:

Completed to Date:

- Land Inventory and Capacity Analysis: A draft document has been received from the consultant and a stakeholder workshop was conducted on 2020-JAN-30. Based on initial input, the consultant is now working on completing a revised draft.
- Parks, Recreation and Culture GIS Analysis: An interactive GIS map is currently under development, with completion anticipated by the end of February 2020.
- Demographic Analysis: A finalized demographic analysis is anticipated by the end of February 2020.
- Steep Slopes Development Permit Area Review: An internal review is currently underway and research results due by the end of February 2020.

OPTIONS

1. That Council receive this report and adopt the attached Coordinated Strategic Policy Review (2020-2021) Terms of Reference.
 - Advantages: Adoption of the Terms of Reference will ensure clarity on the purpose and goals of the review, the principles under which the review will be guided, and the process and timeline under which it will be implemented.
 - Disadvantages: None identified.
 - Financial Implications: None beyond the initial budget commitments already made to the policy review initiative.
2. That Council direct Staff to revise the attached Coordinated Strategic Policy Review (2020-2021) Terms of Reference.
 - Advantages: Will ensure the TOR are acceptable to Council and any edits, omissions, or lack of clarity identified by Council are resolved before they are adopted.
 - Disadvantages: May slightly delay implementation of the policy review until the TOR are approved.
 - Financial Implications: None beyond the initial budget commitments already made to the policy review initiative.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The purpose of the report is to provide Council with the Terms of Reference for the overall Coordinated Strategic Policy Review (2020-2021) process for review and adoption, and an update on the Review's progress to date.
- The focus of the Coordinated Strategic Policy Review is to complete a comprehensive update of a number of key strategic planning policy documents. Central to this undertaking is an update of Nanaimo's 2008 Official Community Plan, the 2005 Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan and the Active and Sustainable Transportation Plan.
- A number of key steps have been completed or are pending in the review process since the project work plan was endorsed by Council in September 2019 and are outlined in the report.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Terms of Reference – Coordinated Strategic Policy Review (2020-2021)

ATTACHMENT B: Coordinated Strategic Policy Review February 2020 Status Update Chart

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