

DATE OF MEETING May 10, 2021

AUTHORED BY REIMAGINE NANAIMO TEAM

SUBJECT CONFIRMING INDICATORS FOR REIMAGINE NANAIMO

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide Council with a preliminary set of indicators for use in evaluating scenarios as part of the REIMAGINE NANAIMO Coordinated Strategy Plan Review.

### **Recommendation**

That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council endorse a preliminary set of indicators for use in the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process.

## **BACKGROUND**

During the Special Council meeting held on 2020-DEC-14, Council passed the following motion:

*“That the City of Nanaimo adopt the Doughnut Economic Model as a cohesive vision for all City initiatives and planning processes; and that a city portrait for Nanaimo be created to scale down the doughnut economics framework, that the city portrait be blended with the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process and that the appropriate measurable targets and indicators relevant to the community be identified and included in the framework to track progress.”*

Staff returned to Council on 2021-MAR-08 and provided an update on the development of the City Portrait by laying out the steps that were underway to downscale the doughnut framework and apply it to the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process:

1. *Selecting our focus (lenses) for developing Nanaimo’s Doughnut Model and City Portrait*  
This will be grounded in the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and linked directly to the guiding principles that Council endorsed on 2020-FEB-24 for the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process, as well as the outcomes of the Phase 1 Engagement process.
2. *Identify Targets and Indicators*  
This will involve researching existing and potential targets and indicators, followed by workshops with Staff, committees, and Council to review and select a proposed set.
3. *Mapping Nanaimo’s Social and Ecological Context*  
This will involve using existing background research and baseline data.

4. *Confirming Targets/Indicators/Portrait*

This will involve returning to Council with a finalized 'City Portrait' based on their input and the steps above.

5. *Using Nanaimo's City Portrait to Evaluate Possible Scenarios:*

Work with Council to evaluate future potential land use and policy scenarios prior to the launch of Phase 2 Engagement to gather community feedback.

Following an online workshop with Council and Committee members on 2021-MAR-10 to refine a list of potential indicators and receive input, Staff provided the Governance and Priorities Committee with an update on 2021-APR-12 to discuss the priority indicators. Staff have continued with the background mapping and are now ready to proceed with part of Step 4 – confirming indicators for use in the City Portrait. The proposed indicators, including those with established baseline data, are provided in Attachment A. |

## **DISCUSSION**

The proposed 21 indicators, contained in Attachment A, fall under the five goals of REIMAGINE NANAIMO:

- Healthy – Support well-being for all
- Connected – Build a more sustainable community
- Enabled – Promote a thriving economy
- Empowered – Encourage social enrichment
- Ecological – Protect and enhance our environment

When considering which indicators to include, key evaluation criteria included the following:

- Data reliability and availability
- Whether it is within municipal ability to influence
- Is the metric meaningful relative to the City's goals?

With the exception of three new indicators under 'Empowered', baseline data has been established for all of the proposed indicators. Should Council choose to endorse these indicators today, these indicators will be used for Scenario Evaluation as a part of Phase 2 of REIMAGINE, including the upcoming Council workshop on 2021-MAY-20.

## **OPTIONS**

1. That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council endorse a preliminary set of indicators for use in the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process.

- Advantages: Will enable the REIMAGINE NANAIMO team to proceed with Phase 2 by confirming indicators to use to evaluate scenarios. Council may endorse a preliminary set of indicators now and make future amendments as part of the ongoing monitoring process for evaluating the updated plans that result from the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process.
- Disadvantages: None identified.

2. That Council endorse a preliminary set of indicators with amendments as per Council discretion.
  - Advantages: Provides Council with more input into the indicators to be used as part of using the City Portrait to evaluate scenarios for REIMAGINE NANAIMO Plan development.
  - Disadvantages: May delay the process by requiring more background research on additional indicators.
3. That Council provide alternative direction.]

#### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- On 2020-DEC-14, Council directed Staff to create a City Portrait for Nanaimo to downscale the doughnut economics framework with appropriate measurements and targets.
- On 2020-MAR-10, Council and Committee members participated in an online workshop to refine a list of potential indicators and provide input. Staff provided a draft set of indicators to the Governance and Priorities Committee on 2021-APR-12 which provided additional feedback.
- Staff are now providing a revised set of preliminary indicators for Council consideration of endorsement to be used in the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT A: Draft Indicators for REIMAGINE NANAIMO Scenario Evaluation |

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