

DATE OF MEETING July 18, 2022
AUTHORED BY Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT MAYOR'S LEADERS' TABLE FINAL REPORT

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with the findings and recommendations of the Mayor's Leaders' Table working groups.

Recommendation

1. That Council support and endorse the recommendations of the Mayor's Leaders' Table working groups and, where applicable, include in corporate work plans.
2. That Council direct staff to develop a Terms of Reference for a Table of Champions to be convened by the 2022-2026 Council to ensure continued advocacy of projects and programs.

BACKGROUND

The Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience was struck in May 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the community. Mayor Leonard Krog and Councillor Tyler Brown were joined by five community leaders and tasked with the following:

- to advise, inform and collaborate across the community
- to further Nanaimo's opportunities and address challenges

The Task Force engaged with community leaders and, with support from City Staff, generated a report in November 2020, with a list of recommendations to strengthen the community entitled *Building a Healthy and Connected Community*.

As a result of the report, the Task Force recommended the establishment of the Mayor's Leaders' Table, bringing together leaders from across the community. Under the Table, three working groups were struck to develop detailed recommendations in the following areas:

1. Infrastructure Ask
2. Youth Attraction and Retention Strategy
3. Doughnut Economic Philosophy Awareness

The work of the Mayor's Leaders' Table occurred in parallel to the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process of developing an integrated City Plan. REIMAGINE NANAIMO incorporated an unprecedented level of community engagement and discussion; the resulting *City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined* forms the basis for a major strategic vision for the City. There is a strong alignment between the vision of the community conveyed by REIMAGINE NANAIMO and the findings, efforts and recommendations of the Table's three working groups. Members of the working groups were involved with both processes.

DISCUSSION

Over the course of the past 12 months, the three working groups came together and fulfilled their mandates. Each working group created a final report, which are included in the Appendix of the Final Report (Attachment A). Once accepted by Council, the *Mayor's Leaders' Table Final Report to Council* will be published to the City's website and distributed to community leaders.

Nanaimo continues to evolve into a thriving urban centre. Rapid growth and an influx of new residents brings with it new expectations and demand for enhanced public services and urban amenities. The challenge of meeting the needs of a growing community while respecting environmental limits was the focus of the new, integrated City Plan, which was created with significant public input. The vision and direction provided by *City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined* will be supported by an *Integrated Action Plan* and *Monitoring Strategy* and by Council's four-year strategic plan.

The Mayor's Leaders' Table members are eager to see the momentum around their areas of focus continue to support the evolution of Nanaimo. To this end, a Table of Champions could be convened to:

- Monitor the status of projects and/or programs
- Support proponents' efforts; e.g. mentoring
- Advocate and lobby on behalf of, or together with, proponents
- Write letters of recommendation in support of projects
- Coordinate a single community voice with senior government
- Update priorities as progress is made implementing the recommendations

CONCLUSION

The Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience generated thoughtful recommendations and guiding principles and provided a report of their findings to Council in November 2020. The Mayor's Leaders' Table was established and three working groups were formed to develop more detailed plans and recommendations, focusing on specific goals.

The working groups' recommendations align closely with the values and goals of the newly-adopted *City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined*. Along with recommendations specific to their areas of focus, the Mayor's Leaders' Table also recommend creating a Table of Champions to promote and support the programs, projects and directions of *City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined*.

OPTIONS

Option 1:

1. That Council support and endorse the recommendations of the Mayor's Leaders' Table working groups and, where applicable, include in corporate work plans.
2. That Council direct staff to develop a Terms of Reference for a Table of Champions to be convened by the 2022-2026 Council to ensure continued advocacy of projects and programs.
 - The advantages of this option: Endorsing the recommendations brought forward by the Mayor's Leaders' Table recognizes the work undertaken by the three working groups and demonstrates a commitment to furthering the work of enhancing infrastructure within the City, attracting and retaining youth and raising awareness of the doughnut economic model, embedded within *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined*. Supporting bringing a Table of Champions forward for the next Council to convene highlights a commitment to see this work continue past this Council's term. This work represents a tangible application of *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined*, and distributes ownership of City Plan beyond Council and Staff.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None identified.

Option 2:

That Council provide alternate direction.]

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Mayor's Leaders' Table was established as a key recommendation of the 2020 Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience and brought together leaders from across the community.
- Three working groups were formed under the Table and tasked to develop recommendations regarding: Infrastructure Ask; Youth Attraction and Retention; and Doughnut Economic Philosophy Awareness.
- A Table of Champions is proposed to be established, once the 2022-2026 Council takes office, to continue the work brought forward by the Mayor's Leaders' Table.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Mayor's Leaders' Table Final Report to Council]

Submitted by:]

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer]