

DATE OF MEETING May 27, 2024

AUTHORED BY KASIA BIEGUN, PLANNER, COMMUNITY PLANNING

SUBJECT 2024 UBCM COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council’s endorsement for an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) 2024 Community Excellence Awards, as required by UBCM.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the City of Nanaimo’s application for *City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined*, the *Integrated Action Plan*, and the *Monitoring Strategy* to be collectively considered for a 2024 UBCM Community Excellence Award – Excellence in Sustainability.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) provides BC communities an opportunity to recognize and celebrate excellence, leadership, and innovation through its annual Awards of Excellence program. The awards are designed to profile promising practices and to encourage local governments to learn from the success of other members in order to undertake new programs or implement more fundamental changes in their own communities.

Staff have submitted an application for a UBCM award for *City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined*, the *Integrated Action Plan*, and the *Monitoring Strategy* as a collective suite. Council endorsement is needed as part of the award application package. The submission is in the Excellence in Sustainability category, which “recognizes UBCM members that incorporate a long-term sustainability lens by considering the four pillars - cultural, social, economic and environmental issues - in planning, policy and practice”.

DISCUSSION

City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined, the *Integrated Action Plan*, and the *Monitoring Strategy* represent a new City of Nanaimo Planning Structure (see Attachment A). *City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined* serves as the City’s strategic planning document, that provides direction for the coming 25 years on land use, Truth and Reconciliation, climate adaptation, health and wellness, diversity, accessibility and inclusion, economic prosperity, sustainable living, and more. The *Integrated Action Plan* lists and prioritizes the actions the City will take to achieve the goals and policies of *City Plan*. The *Monitoring Strategy* establishes priority targets and key indicators to measure progress towards achieving the goals of *City Plan*. All three documents are structured around the Nanaimo Doughnut Framework and the Five City Goals: A Green Nanaimo, A Connected Nanaimo, A Healthy Nanaimo, An Empowered Nanaimo, and A Prosperous Nanaimo.

The Doughnut Framework provides a sustainability lens for all three documents and provides the organizing structure to ensure the City consistently advances towards achieving the five *City Plan* goals. Staff believe this is a new organizational and governance framework that demonstrates the City's commitment to ongoing integration, accountability, and long-term planning for sustainability. For Council's information, the UBCM Community Excellence Awards 2024 Program and Application Guide and Application Form can be found in the link in Attachment B. |

OPTIONS

1. That Council endorse the City of Nanaimo's application for *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined*, the *Integrated Action Plan*, and the *Monitoring Strategy* to be collectively considered for a 2024 UBCM Community Excellence Award – Excellence in Sustainability.
 - The advantages of this option: If the application is successful, this award would demonstrate Council's leadership and would promote *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined*, the *Integrated Action Plan*, and the *Monitoring Strategy* among BC municipalities.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None identified.
 - Financial Implications: None identified.
2. That Council not endorse the City's application for *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined*, the *Integrated Action Plan*, and the *Monitoring Strategy* to be considered for a 2024 UBCM Community Excellence Award – Excellence in Sustainability.
 - The advantages of this option: None identified.
 - The disadvantages of this option: Staff time will have been used for preparing and submitting the award application.
 - Financial Implications: None identified.
3. That Council provide alternate direction. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined*, the *Integrated Action Plan*, and the *Monitoring Strategy* represent a new organizational and governance framework that demonstrates the City's commitment to ongoing integration, accountability, and long-term planning for sustainability.
- The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) recognizes and celebrates excellence, leadership, and innovation through its Awards of Excellence.
- Council endorsement is required for the application to be considered for the UBCM Community Excellence Award – Excellence in Sustainability.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: City Planning Structure

ATTACHMENT B: Link to “Community Excellence Awards 2024 Program and Application Guide and Application Form” |

Submitted by:

Lisa Brinkman
Manager, Community Planning |

Concurrence by:

Jeremy Holm
Director, Planning & Development |