

DATE OF MEETING October 28, 2024

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**SUBJECT NANAIMO DOUGHNUT ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK AWARENESS PROGRAM**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To provide the Governance and Priorities Committee with an update on the progress of priority actions 173 and 174 to build a Nanaimo Doughnut Economics Framework Awareness Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Nanaimo adopted the Doughnut Economics framework to guide its long-term vision for sustainable growth. This framework shapes City Plan, outlining how Nanaimo will develop over the next 25 years with a balanced approach that benefits both people and the planet. Two key documents accompany City Plan: the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) and the Monitoring Strategy. The IAP is a comprehensive guide detailing both immediate and long-term actions for implementing City Plan, while the Monitoring Strategy serves as a tool to assess progress and make necessary adjustments as we move forward.

This staff report is to present the Future Fit Cities report that was completed in response to two priority actions in the Integrated Action Plan:

“Include in Council orientation for 2022/2023 and establish an ad hoc Committee do develop awareness training for City staff and council on the City’s Doughnut Economic Framework, to embed the concept through the organization.” (Priority Action 173)

“Develop an awareness program on the City’s Doughnut Economic Framework for City entities: Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation, Tourism Nanaimo, and the Systems Planning Organization, and engage with key stakeholders e.g. Port Theatre, Museum etc.” (Priority Action 174)

To support these efforts the City partnered with Future Fit Cities to assess the current understanding and engagement with Doughnut Economics principles among Staff across all departments and to develop a roadmap for a future awareness program. Future Fit Cities brings expertise in regenerative urban environments, using a collaborative and immersive approach that aligns with the principles of sustainability, innovation and community engagement

## **DISCUSSION**

Future Fit Cities conducted interviews with key personnel from various City departments and Council members. Additionally, they hosted an in-person workshop in May 2024, which included participation from 34 senior Staff and external partners (including the Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation, Tourism Nanaimo, and the Systems Planning Organization.) The Future Fit Cities Engagement Summary can be found in Attachment A.

Based on their assessment, Future Fit Cities has proposed a phased approach to achieve an awareness program of doughnut economics:

1. **Phase 1: Re-energize Administration and Key Stakeholders**
  - Conduct internal workshops to realign and re-engage City Staff and partners (complete).
  - Develop a Doughnut compass and scorecard to measure progress.
  - Map stakeholder roles and identify project opportunities.
  - Build an internal Champion Network to lead future initiatives.
  - Create a Doughnut Accelerator roadmap (18-month roadmap).
2. **Phase 2: Broaden Engagement and Education**
  - Conduct broader community outreach and workshops.
  - Establish new partnerships for collaborative projects.
  - Provide regular community updates and educational sessions.
3. **Phase 3: Nanaimo's Doughnut Accelerator**
  - Select one or two keystone projects (community challenges) to accelerate in a lab-like setting.
4. **Ongoing Progress Monitoring**
  - Use data-driven strategies for continuous measurement, learning and sharing of Nanaimo's progress.

In addition the engagement report from Future Fit Cities outlines eight action steps for scaling the Nanaimo Doughnut framework, including identifying champions, creating a collective ambition compass, auditing IAP actions and launching a community engagement strategy around the Monitoring Framework.

The purpose of this staff report is to present the recommendations prepared by Future Fit Cities "The Nanaimo Doughnut - Where We Are Now & Road Map". Staff will work towards creating options for a Nanaimo Doughnut Economics awareness program, based on the recommendations from the Future Fit Cities report, and will present a proposed workplan and strategy to Council with budget implications during the 2026-2030 budget deliberations. |

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- In response to Priority Action 173 and 174, the City partnered with Future Fit Cities to assess the current understanding and engagement with Doughnut Economics principles and to develop a roadmap for future awareness.
- Future Fit Cities has provided recommendations in a report titled “The Nanaimo Doughnut - Where We Are Now & Road Map”.
- Staff will work towards creating options for a Nanaimo Doughnut Economics awareness program, based on the recommendations from the Future Fit Cities report, and will present a proposed workplan and strategy to Council with budget implications.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT A: The Nanaimo Doughnut: Where We Are Now and Road Map |

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