

Date: June 10, 2024

To: **Mayor and Council**

Name and title: Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development

Subject: Official Community Plan Review Project – Update June 2024

Attachment(s): Report prepared by Urban Systems titled, “Official Community Plan What We Heard Report: Phase 3”
Presentation by Urban Systems titled, “Official Community Plan Update: Phase 3: What We Heard Report”

Recommendation(s):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated June 10, 2024, from the Director of Planning and Development titled “Official Community Plan Review Project – Update June 2024”.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the results of the community consultation that occurred in Phase 3 of the Official Community Plan (OCP) Review Project.

Representatives of Urban Systems will be in attendance to assist with presenting the attached “What We Heard Report: Phase 3”.

Background:

The OCP establishes a framework for planning and land use in the City of Prince George. The OCP gains its “official” status once Council has adopted it through the enactment of a bylaw. The OCP applies to all areas within the City of Prince George's jurisdictional boundaries and includes statements and map designations for residential, commercial, community facilities, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and utility land uses, and comprises contextual information, objectives, and policies.

On [December 19, 2022](#), Council directed Administration to seek consultant services to lead the OCP Review Project to renew and align the OCP with current land use planning and infrastructure considerations to meet the needs of a growing city. A request for proposals was completed through the City's Procurement Department between December 2022 to May 2023, and Urban Systems was selected as the lead proponent commencing work as of June 2023.

On [September 11, 2023](#), Urban Systems was introduced to Council and gave an overview of the project's workplan and timeline.

On [January 8, 2024](#), Urban Systems presented to Council and gave an overview of the results of Phase 1 and Phase 2 community consultation processes for the Official Community Plan (OCP) Review Project.

Strategic Priorities:

The OCP Review Project has been identified within Council's Strategic Plan 2023-2026 and within the 2023 Corporate Workplan to create and share a long-term vision to grow the City.

Discussion:

The "What We Heard Report: Phase 3" (attached) details the consultation methods and feedback received through the community engagement held between December 2023 and April 2024.

There were several common themes that consistently emerged across the engagement events and activities:

- Protect, enhance, and connect our parks and open spaces. Prioritize greenspace in new developments. Protect wildlife corridors and native species.
- Protect and enhance riparian areas, green corridors, and tree cover.
- Prioritize pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in our transportation and mobility planning. Create safer networks, pathways, and crossings. Create more connections to parks and riverfronts.
- Prioritize active transportation to action our environmental protection and climate preparedness plans.
- Prioritize infill development and density over sprawl in growth management.
- Provide more housing options in more areas, particularly for seniors.

The feedback provided through this phase of engagement will be used to refine the proposed OCP Vision and policy directions, and to draft the policies.

Phase 4 of the OCP Review process will begin in August 2024 and continue to December 2024. Phase 4 includes the production of the Draft OCP, consultation for the Draft OCP, and finalization of the OCP (i.e. the document and bylaw approval process).

Community members will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft OCP through a survey, the project email address and written submissions (projected for September 2024). Further, community members will also be able to provide feedback through the approval process.

Future engagement opportunities will be published on the project webpage: www.princegeorge.ca/ocp and through social media.

Summary and conclusion:

The OCP Review Project is intended to renew and align the OCP with current land use planning and infrastructure considerations to meet the needs of a growing city. The feedback provided through this phase of engagement will be used to refine the proposed OCP Vision and policy directions, and to draft the policies. The OCP Review Project is scheduled to be completed in December 2024.

Respectfully submitted:

Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development

PREPARED BY: Kali Holahan, Supervisor, Land Use Planning

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2024/07/08