

DATE: December 21, 2023

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development

SUBJECT: Official Community Plan Review Project – Update January 2024

ATTACHMENT(S): Official Community Plan Review Project Presentation – Urban Systems
What We Heard Report (Phase 1 & 2)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated December 21, 2023, from the Director of Planning and Development titled “Official Community Plan Review Project – Update January 2024”.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the results of the community consultation processes that have occurred to date for the Official Community Plan (OCP) Review Project.

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 projects workplan and timeline.

Representatives of Urban Systems will be in attendance to assist with presenting the attached What We Heard Report.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Initiation of 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 1 & 2)" attached details the consultation methods and feedback received through the community engagement held between September and November 2023.

As detailed in the attached report, the following common themes consistently emerged across the engagement events and activities:

- Preservation of parks and open spaces;
- Expansion of the existing active transportation and pedestrian networks;
- Upgrades to existing infrastructure;
- Environmental protection and climate preparedness; and
- Growth, density, built form, and housing.

The feedback provided through this phase of engagement will be used to draft a vision statement, guiding principles, goals, and objectives for the updated OCP.

Phase 3 of the OCP Review process began in December 2023 and will continue to August 2024. Phase 3, which will focus on policy development, will include more opportunities for community members and those interested to provide their input, including municipal pop-up events and two (2) more community open house events. Engagement events 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 draft a vision statement, guiding principles, goals, and objectives for the updated OCP. The OCP Review Project is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 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: 2024/01/08