

ADDRESSING OPERATING CHALLENGES WITH BOTTLE DEPOTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report was prepared to respond to Council's Motion Arising, moved by Councillor Pootmans, directing Administration to work with the Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB) on how best to address operating challenges with existing and future bottle depots. City Wide Policy & Integration (CPI) has been working with Animal & Bylaw Services (ABS) and the BCMB to ensure that ongoing issues such as shopping carts and new technologies affecting depot operations will be managed appropriately. While legally existing depots cannot be held to new standards that were not considered during the original application process, Land Use Bylaw 1P2007 (LUB) amendments have been prepared for a meeting of Calgary Planning Commission (CPC) on 2014 October 23, which have the potential to substantially impact the way new depots are operated, particularly when close to residential neighbourhoods. These amendments should address Council concerns regarding new depots and their operational requirements.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SPC on Community and Protective Services recommend that council receive this report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

At the 2014 May 26 Regular Meeting of Council, a motion arising was Moved by Councillor Pootmans, Seconded by Councillor Demong, which directed Administration to work with the Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB) on how best to address operating challenges, and return to Council through the SPC on Community and Protective Services, no later than 2014 December 10.

At the 2014, May 26 Regular Meeting of Council, it was further Moved by Councillor Chabot, Seconded by Councillor Magliocca that Administration bring forward a report with amendments to the LUB that may include: listing the bottle depot use in more districts; making the use permitted in districts where it is currently discretionary; creating rules concerning bottle storage and management; creating a new use definition to accommodate emerging service models; and to bring forward any required Land Use Bylaw amendments to Calgary Planning Commission by 2014 October.

At the 2013 February 25 Regular Meeting of Council, it was Moved by Councillor Chabot, Seconded by Councillor Lowe, that Administration work with representatives from the Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB) to bring forward recommendations to Council on potential amendments to the Land Use Bylaw through the Standing Policy Committee on Planning and Urban Development, with a goal of increasing the number of districts that allow beverage container drop-off depots, and to return to the SPC on Planning and Urban Development by 2014 May.

BACKGROUND

Administration has been working with the BCMB and individual depots since 2014 May to discuss practices that can be used to address operating challenges with legacy depots. The BCMB has committed to dealing with operating issues of all Calgary depots, existing and new. Recently, the BCMB has communicated to all Calgary bottle depots via a written notice, that

ADDRESSING OPERATING CHALLENGES WITH BOTTLE DEPOTS

supplies and product being stored outside will not be tolerated and will be subject to warnings with specific instruction and timelines followed by levies. These issues have been a focus of Calgary depot inspections and visits by BCMB Compliance Officers as well. In the last six months, Compliance Officers have conducted over 50 individual inspections of depots in Calgary and have also had further supplementary visits and reviews conducted by the Senior Compliance Officer and the Director of Operations to ensure compliance with BCMB rules, including storage, garbage and debris issues. The BCMB Inspections take the form of a permit matrix and are designed to mark on all aspects of the depot operation. This includes quality control, customer service etc, as well as performance measures on cleanliness. Depots not performing to the required standards are penalized through a system of levies and the permit matrix scores determine the length of the permit. Underperforming depots are issued just one-year permits and are required to submit improvement proposals to the BCMB. Failure to improve can lead to a Board Review that can result in the permit being revoked entirely.

The BCMB requires that every permit holder be in compliance with all other requirements of all applicable legislation and municipal bylaws. Essentially if there is an issue noted during inspection or brought to BCMB's attention (public complaint, call from The City, etc.) BCMB compliance will commit to investigating and issuing a warning that would have specific action items outlined as well as deadlines. Should the action items not be completed by the deadline the next step in compliance would be taken which would be levies.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The BCMB worked with Administration to determine how best to ensure that existing legacy depots are managed appropriately, as well as helping to identify the best tools for Administration to use to manage depots from a development perspective. Working with the BCMB, Administration will continue to build on the relationship by creating better ties with the BCMB so that issues can be immediately addressed when they arise.

Administration has also been working with stakeholders over the past six months to determine if there are additional land use districts in the LUB that bottle depots would be appropriate in, as well as reviewing the rules associated with depots. Administration has determined that it would be appropriate to add the use of Beverage Container Drop-off Depot to a couple of districts, as well as amending the rules for bottle depots to ensure new depots conform to a higher standard, particularly when located near residential development. This will help to provide more opportunities for new depots, with the hopes of adding locations to areas that are currently under-served, thereby helping to take the burden of excessive volumes off of existing legacy depots.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

The BCMB worked with Administration to determine how best to ensure that existing legacy depots are managed appropriately, as well as helping to identify the best tools for Administration to use to manage depots from a development perspective. Members of community, industry, the Alberta Bottle Depot Association, and individual depots were also consulted throughout the project responding to PUD2014-0333.

ADDRESSING OPERATING CHALLENGES WITH BOTTLE DEPOTS

Animal and Bylaw Services have indicated that the Streets Bylaw 20M88 is a helpful tool to deal with shopping carts and that they have the ability to impound carts that are taken off the boundaries of the property they belong to.

Strategic Alignment

2020 Sustainability Direction

Effective waste management protects public health and the environment. The City's "80/20 by 2020 Waste Diversion Goal" states that by the year 2020 Calgary will be recycling 80 per cent of its waste and the remaining 20 per cent will be going to landfills. The successful implementation of this Council goal will have a profound impact on the amount of waste going to The City's landfill sites. In addition, the plan indicates that one of the existing strategies to achieving this goal is to promote and facilitate opportunities to easily access recycling programs.

Municipal Development Plan (MDP)

The MDP has a number of city-wide policies that support The City's goals for waste reduction. The MDP states that "all land use and transportation planning and development should seek to conserve and protect ecosystems by: ... minimizing waste" (subsection 2.6(1)(viii)).

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Social

Beverage container Drop-off Depots provide a service for citizens of the city and support the sustainment of communities where residents are able to meet their daily needs by having amenities and services closer to where they live.

Environmental

Increasing the rates of return for empty beverage containers has a direct impact on the environment since these empty containers are recycled and put to other uses. The more empty bottles that stay out of the general waste system, the more successful Calgary will be in achieving its waste reduction goals.

Economic

Bottle depots facilitate the return of empty beverage containers, but also provide jobs directly and indirectly in the recycling industry. Providing additional and alternative opportunities for bottle depots facilitates future growth in the recycling industry, which again supports the City's waste reduction goals.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

No impact.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

No impact.

Risk Assessment

None associated with this report.

ADDRESSING OPERATING CHALLENGES WITH BOTTLE DEPOTS

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Administration has been working with the Beverage Container Management Board and other stakeholders to address operating challenges with existing bottle depots. In addition, amendments to Land Use Bylaw 1P2007 are being brought forward to Council on 2014 December 08 (through Calgary Planning Commission). These amendments will address operating challenges with new bottle depots.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None