

CALGARY EATS! FOOD SYSTEM ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN STATUS/PROGRESS REPORT – DEFERRAL REQUEST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to defer the Calgary Eats! Food System Assessment and Action Plan Status/Progress Report to the Standing Policy Committee (SPC) on Community and Protective Services to no later than 2014 December to enable for robust data collection from the various stakeholders of the food system measuring progress towards the targets identified in Calgary Eats! Action Plan.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SPC on Community and Protective Services recommends that Council approve Administration's request to defer the report on Calgary Eats! Food System Assessment and Action Plan Progress/Status Report to no later than 2014 December.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION /POLICY

On 2009 November 30, Council approved Notice of Motion NM2009-52, Food Policy for The City of Calgary, directing Administration to prepare a report examining The City of Calgary's role in a local food system for Calgarians. On 2010 July 19, Council directed Administration to coordinate a multi-sector/agency stakeholder group to develop a terms of reference for further defining food priorities, partnerships, funding opportunities and an action plan.

On 2011 March 21, Council received the terms of reference and adopted the recommendation that Administration complete a food system assessment and land inventory and report back to Council no later than 2012 April (CPS2011-18). On 2011 November 14, Council approved the revised Council Innovation Fund application to support the completion of the Calgary Food System Assessment & Action Plan and Calgary Community Farm Initiative.

On 2012 June 25, Council received for information 'Calgary Eats!' Summary of a Food System Assessment and Action Plan for Calgary endorsed the vision and principles of the assessment and endorsed the implementation on the recommended City of Calgary actions in collaboration with appropriate stakeholders. Council also directed Administration to return with a progress/status report to Council through the SPC on Community and Protective Services, no later than 2013 December.

BACKGROUND

Municipalities and regional districts are key players in working to improve the Canadian food system through a mix of municipal policies, bylaws, programs, and business and community partnerships. Municipalities are involved from the perspective of strengthening economic development and community building, enhancing the health of the environment, addressing poverty related issues such as food security and uneven access to food; all aimed at building resiliency and strengthening the community.

Calgary Eats! Calgary Food System Assessment and Action Plan addressed these issues in the context of the role of The City of Calgary and the many other stakeholders within Calgary's food system. The Action Plan includes baseline data, issues, opportunities and priority actions with targets. A monitoring and measurement team has been working throughout 2013 to create a

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measurement framework identifying indicators and available data to measure progress on the targets in the Action Plan.

Unfortunately, the June flood impacted Calgary's volunteer capacity within the food community and Administration's capacity to connect with all areas of the food system regarding actions, data collection and reporting. Many active community food organizations were focused on flood recovery efforts. The Calgary Food Committee (CFC) was aware of sensitivities that existed surrounding collecting data and reporting in light of the recovery priority. As well, some of the food reporting metrics are based on the growing season (e.g., quantity of urban agricultural production) and with only one full growing season to report on, the data would have been based on a year that was significantly impacted by the timing of the flood.

Progress towards the Action Plan is continually tracked through the Calgary Food Committee and highlights are included in the Attachment.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Administration considered bringing the progress/status report forward for December 2013 to provide an update on the current food system actions with the monitoring framework methods. However, the June flood impacted Administration's priorities and the community stakeholders' ability to finalize the methods early enough to collect data for a status report. It was determined in consultation with the CFC that providing a progress/status report in December 2014 will enable reporting on two years with only one impacted by the June flood. The data will be more robust in terms of understanding progress towards the targets. Also, providing a status/progress report in December 2014 will allow sufficient time to develop the report in a manner that communicates the progress of the work to the food community and assists in building awareness.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Working with the CFC, Administration formed a sub-committee of stakeholders and researchers to develop the monitoring framework methods. The monitoring action team worked throughout 2013 to identify appropriate indicators for all targets in the action plan based on data availability, and by developing relationships with additional stakeholders to include new data sets wherever possible.

Following the June flood, the CFC and the monitoring sub-committee agreed that a deferral request was the preferred option to best represent the ongoing work of the food system players and have robust data.

Strategic Alignment

Deferring the Calgary Eats! Food Assessment and Action Plan Progress/Status Report will enable sufficient time to collaborate with community stakeholders post-flood to provide an update on the food targets, and action plan progress, and aligns with the Calgary Metropolitan Plan in that "CRP and member municipalities recognize the need for strategies and collaborative actions to ensure continued access to safe, affordable and sustainably-produced food for the region's population."

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Social, Environmental, Economic (External) section

Deferring the Progress/Status report will provide opportunity to fully represent progress towards the food system vision: “to create a sustainable and resilient food system for the Calgary region” and therefore will address the social, environmental and economic aspects of the food system.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

Deferring the Progress/Status report will not incur additional operating costs as City of Calgary's responsibilities within the Action Plan were identified as part of existing allocated budgets.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

Deferring the Progress/Status report will not incur a capital cost.

Risk Assessment

Deferring the report will reduce the risk of misrepresenting the progress/status of the food system because of the flood's impact which significantly influenced Administration and community capacity; and impacted the time available to collect data.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Presenting the Calgary Eats! Food System Assessment and Action Plan Progress/Status Report to the SPC on Community and Protective Services by December 2014 will allow for sufficient time to collect data on the full food system.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Calgary Eats! Food System Assessment and Action Plan Highlighted Progress