

HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Update report presents the HealthYYC Initiative for Council's information. This responds to Council's direction of reporting on a terms of reference for a committee that will provide recommendations on the inclusion of health principles into planning and development policy and/or practices.

As a result of research and the engagement process it was determined that the best forum to action Council's direction is through an initiative that is separate from the governance structure of the City of Calgary Boards, Commissions and Committees. The HealthYYC Initiative is an informal committee that is City-led and co-chaired by Urban Strategy. The Initiative will include an external co-chair with an advisory board that consists of a mix of administration and key external stakeholders who represent a range of partners committed to building healthy communities. In addition these members provide a range of expertise, skill sets and perspectives that will support a responsive and holistic approach to their recommendations and actions. This diverse group demonstrates the interest and impact that health has across many disciplines and stakeholders.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SPC on Planning and Urban Development recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report on Health Impact Assessment Update with the attached HealthYYC Initiative terms of reference for information; and
2. Direct Administration to report back on the progress of the HealthYYC Initiative no later than 2019 Q2.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPC ON PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DATED 2017 MAY 10:

That Council:

1. Receive this report on Health Impact Assessment Update with the attached HealthYYC Initiative terms of reference for information; and
2. Direct Administration to report back **to Council, through the SPC on Planning and Urban Development**, on the progress of the HealthYYC Initiative no later than 2019 Q2.

Oppositions to Recommendations:

Opposed: P. Demong, J. Magliocca, W. Sutherland

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Excerpt from the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the SPC on Planning and Urban Development, held 2017 May 10:

“And further, that the letters distributed at today’s Meeting be attached to the Report prior to be forwarded to Council.”

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

At the 2017 January 23 Regular Meeting of Council, the Health Impact Assessment Update was adopted as follows:

ADOPT, Moved by Councillor Chabot, Seconded by Councillor Colley-Urquhart, that the SPC on Planning and Urban Development Recommendations contained in Report PUD2017-0016 be adopted, **after amendment**, as follows:

That Council:

1. Receive the report on Health Impact Assessment for Information; and
2. Direct Administration to report to Council, through the SPC on Planning & Urban Development, by no later than 2017 May, on a terms of reference for a committee, including stakeholder roles, to develop recommendations to advance the inclusion of health principles into planning and development policy and/or practices.

At the 2016 September 26 Regular Meeting of Council, the Health Impact Assessment Update – Deferral Report was adopted as follows:

“ADOPT, Moved by Councillor Pootmans, Seconded by Councillor Pincott, that Council:

1. Reconsider its decision contained in the minutes of the 2015 December 07- 08 meeting of Council, with respect to the adopted motion arising out of Report CPC2015-218 to bring a HIA presentation to a 2016 Strategic Council Meeting;
2. Direct Administration to bring forward the presentation on the Health Impact Assessment approach including healthy planning principles and ramifications, to Council through the SPC on PUD; and
3. Defer this item to return to the SPC on PUD no later than Q1 2017.”

At the 2015 December 07 Combined Meeting of Council, the following Motion Arising was moved by Councillor Woolley:

“MOTION ARISING, Moved by Councillor Woolley, Seconded by Councillor Demong, that with respect to CPC2015-218, Council direct Administration to bring forward a presentation on the Health Impact Assessment approach including healthy planning principles and ramifications to a 2016 Strategic Council Meeting.”

This report responds to Council direction by providing a terms of reference for a committee that is the HealthYYC Initiative (outlined in Attachment 1) that consists of a range of stakeholders which will develop recommendations to advance the inclusion of health principles into planning a development and/or practices.

BACKGROUND

City planning and health have historically been connected. Infectious diseases have been addressed in concert with public health through design solutions, with the introduction of building codes, sanitation and water treatment infrastructure. Today, as reported by the World

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Health Organization and our provincial health system, the leading cause of death and illness is chronic diseases. Physical inactivity, tobacco, unhealthy diets and harmful use of alcohol are the leading factors. Research in the fields of medicine, public health, design, policy making and engineering along with best practice in the development industry recognize that design could once again have a positive and productive relationship in concert with public health to address health issues.

In 2011 Administration started to develop a relationship with external partners to take action on the importance of the design and planning of communities for the health of Calgarians. In 2011 Administration participated in the planning of the University of Calgary event makeCalgary Healthy. This event was held in 2012 with the University of Calgary Environmental Design program and it was this health focus that also brought the Institute of Public Health and Cummings Medical School department together to participate. A successful outcome from the event was Administration's collaboration with the University of Calgary to attract the international conference Walk21, which Calgary will host this fall.

In June of 2014 the work under the Developer Funded Area Structure Plan program within Planning and Development provided the opportunity to pilot a new approach to planning and policy development in one of the new communities. For the Nose Creek Area Structure Plan (NCASP) and HIA, the focus on health started the conversation around health and the built form with stakeholders, which included internal departments, industry, landowners and the broader public. The result was the creation and adoption of the first land use planning policy document with HIA and health focus for the City of Calgary, and Alberta. As a result of this work there have been various invitations to speak on this topic at a variety of venues, both local and national, with designers, planners and professional from other disciplines. Since 2015 the work of the Nose Creek ASP and HIA has reached researchers at the Hotchkiss Brain Institute to local grassroots venues such as the Jane's Walk. In summary this relationship between the physical design of our communities and health (physical, mental and social) has caught the attention of City of Calgary Administration, professionals and researchers in design and health sciences, Alberta health services, community groups and the development industry.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

At the 2017 January 23 Regular Council the HIA update discussed the importance of the inclusion of health, whether it be physical, mental or social into the planning and development of our communities. Partnerships were acknowledged to be an important aspect of this work. Council recognized those organization which were involved in the previous report should continue as key stakeholders. They included the Calgary zone medical officer of health from Alberta Health Services, University of Calgary, VIVO and Urban Land Institute (ULI).

Building a healthy community requires many partners that share a common vision, and this HealthYYC Initiative captures these partnerships, experts and interested groups together to maximize the energy for positive health outcomes in community building. During the engagement process the stakeholders considered what would be the best mechanism for the advancement of the inclusion of health into building communities, and considered policy, best practices and other approaches.

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Health into Policy

Through the engagement process the Eight Healthy Planning principles were indicated to be a good foundation for the further advancement of health, but many of the principles already existed in current City of Calgary policies, largely in the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), but also throughout other department guidelines and policy documents. Creation of another policy document was perceived to be redundant and time-consuming process that would not yield a better outcome versus integrating current health supportive directives into existing policy documents.

Health and Best Practices

The key stakeholder group identified that a best practice guide could be a useful tool for decision makers, public agencies, development industry partners, community agencies and members of the public. The creation of a best practice guide by the HealthYYC Initiative will result in a comprehensive guide with a broad range of application.

Education, resources and tools

The vision of the initiative is to connect, share and accelerate action towards positive health outcomes in building healthy communities. A repeated ask from the attendees of the workshops was for training on tools such as a HIA and research and best practices in the field of built form and healthy communities.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Since the Council meeting on 2017 23 January, key stakeholders that were identified by Council along with the addition of industry members, external health partners from Alberta Health Services, and City of Calgary staff with interest on the topic and the HIA tool, were engaged throughout this process in a variety of formats. These included:

- Key stakeholder meetings, four (4) in total;
- Workshop with internal and external personnel who are interested in bringing health to their project or program;
- Individual meetings with project managers from various City departments interested in learning about how to utilize an HIA as a tool;
- Research connections with University of Calgary, Cumming School of Medicine, and Alberta Health Services;
- Community and industry collaboration: Presentation at the upcoming Walk21 conference with ULI and VIVO;
- Walk21 initial planning and abstract reviewer; and
- Communication in the format of journal articles.

Through these engagement sessions it was identified that there was a need to bring together all the different partnerships that have occurred over the past few years to streamline and share ideas, research and resources to action change. This resulted in the HealthYYC purpose statement which is to connect, share and accelerate action towards positive health outcomes in building healthy communities. This requires a collaborative approach that could be a City led initiative with a balanced team of internal and external members from an array of disciplines, all of whom are focused on the operationalization of building and sustaining healthy communities.

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The key stakeholders also identified that a committee under the governance of the City of Calgary Boards, Commissions and Committees would restrict the HealthYYC Initiative's ability to be responsive and flexible as there is time impact with member appointments and reporting.

The HealthYYC Initiative will develop in the first year a set of deliverables that will respond to Council's direction. Due to the importance of this work and to meet this goal it is recommended that action should be immediate and the framework for the initiative should be nimble, flexible and responsive.

Strategic Alignment

The HealthYYC Initiative would directly support many City of Calgary priorities, policies and guidelines. They include:

- The 2015-2018 Council Priorities: A healthy and green city, and through the eight healthy planning principles and the inclusion of health in policy and practice it would also support the Council Priority of A city of inspiring neighbourhoods.
- The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) mentions health as a key component of the various goals, objectives and policies. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Policy 2.1: A prosperous economy.
 - Creating a city attractive to people. Policies Provide Safe and Healthy Communities with a variety of housing choices, employment opportunities, local retail and services and mobility options.
 - Policy 2.2: Shaping a more compact urban form. Policies in this section include: Nurturing vibrant, active, healthy, safe and caring communities, designing communities for social cohesion and health and wellness.
 - Policy 2.3: Creating great communities.
 - Create quality public parks, open spaces and other community amenities, and make leisure and recreation activities available to all Calgarians. To promote overall community health and quality of life for all Calgarians
- 100 Resilient Cities: The Calgary Resilience Challenge focuses on building economic and environmental resiliency, as the associated shocks and stresses have physical and mental health impacts to communities and the people within them.

The inclusion of health in the planning, building and sustaining of our communities has a broad cross departmental scope and the HealthYYC Initiative is aligned with many other policies and plans, including the Calgary Transportation Plan, Step Forward Pedestrian Strategy, Active Aging Strategy, Age-Friendly Cities framework, Environmental Policy, and Triple Bottom Line policy to name a few.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

The HealthYYC Initiative focuses on creating and sustaining a health mind set towards building healthy communities, which impacts all of Calgary. The eight healthy planning principles are an example of this approach which aim to improve the physical and mental health of Calgarians, which have social, environmental and economic benefits. Attachment 2 outlines the eight

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Healthy Planning Principles from the Nose Creek Area Structure Plan and Health Impact Assessment.

Many of the eight healthy planning principles support prioritizing non-motorized modes of transportation which would result in reduction in carbon footprint. Other health principles are about the provision of healthy food within walking distance of residential areas, and respecting and integrating the natural landscape into the community design. These would result in reduction of ecological footprint, improvement in air and water quality, and biodiversity.

The HealthYYC Initiative has optimized the use of City resources through collaborative engagement, by building relationships with internal and external stakeholders that have projects and programs that would feed into building healthy communities in Calgary. Further, the initiative is not a formal City of Calgary Committee, Board or Commission which would reduce the amount of time and resources associated with the protocol of reporting and appointment. Time and resources are focused on outcome-based action in partnership with external stakeholders.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

There are no impacts to current or future operating budgets as a result of this report.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no impacts to current or future capital budgets as a result of this report.

Risk Assessment

The HealthYYC Initiative mitigates the risk of not meeting the Council priority for Calgary to be a healthy and green city since research, industry partners and public health agencies will call attention to the connection between health and the built form of our communities. Although many departments have existing policy and guidelines that support various health outcomes, and various organizations have been preparing individually for the impact of built form on the health of the community, to date there has not been a coordinated effort across the Corporation with external experts, industry partners and the community to address the important connection.

There are a variety of existing City of Calgary policies that touch on health, however there is no plan in place that operationalizes these policies with external groups and members of the community. Therefore it is the recommendation of administration, key stakeholders, and workshop attendees to have a framework that functions outside of the governance of the City of Calgary Boards, Commission and Committees as an informal committee that is designed to be nimble and exploratory and responsive to the community. The HealthYYC Initiative will build upon the partnership to date by supporting and accelerating actions that will improve Calgarians' mental, physical and social health.

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REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The terms of reference for the HealthYYC Initiative supports Council's direction for how the City can advance the inclusion of health in building healthy communities in an effective, efficient and collaborative manner.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1: HealthYYC Initiative Terms of Reference

Attachment 2: Eight Healthy Planning Principles

Attachment 3: Letter of Support from Alberta Health Services

Attachment 4: Letter of Support from VIVO

Attachment 5: Letter of Support from University of Calgary, Haskayne School of Business

Attachment 6: Letter of Support from BILD Calgary Region

Attachment 7: Letters Distributed