

Attachment 7 – Summary of Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

Social

Achieving the plans provides many social benefits. A wider range of housing options better serves citizens and support for affordable housing is identified in the plans. Increasing the accessibility of the transportation system and the amount of travel by walking, cycling and transit allows all Calgarians to more fully participate in work and social activities. A new section on equity (2.3.8) includes giving direct consideration to equity considerations in several aspects of planning to support the Social Wellbeing policy. A land acknowledgement and some targeted policy changes begin to incorporate truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples into the plans. Many of these changes begin to address implementation of social topics but more work will be needed

Environmental

The proposed amendments significantly improve many environmental outcomes in the plans and strengthen alignments with previously approved Council policies regarding water, biodiversity, climate change, parks and forestry. The plans implement the targets of the Climate Resilience Strategy by adding both mitigating and adapting policies to support reaching the target of 80% of 2005 Greenhouse Gas emission levels by 2050. Achieving the plans also reduces overall land consumption which retains more natural areas, improves water quality and increases the urban forest.

Economic

The plans seek to achieve a city that increases housing and transportation options, provides strong industrial areas and supporting goods networks and reinforces the Greater Downtown as a key cultural and economic centre. The cost savings achieved from a more compact city will reduce future tax burdens, which will increase economic competitiveness. An attractive, affordable city will help retain existing industries and attract new ones. The proposed amendments tighten policy and increase certainty to improve consistent decision making and decrease risks for applicants and other implementers.