

# BRIEFING

Page 1 of 2

Item # 11.1

Planning & Development Services

Executive Committee

2022 October 18

ISC: UNRESTRICTED

EC2022-1147

## Citywide Growth Strategy: Established Area Growth Framework Learning Session Summary

---

### PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

A Learning Session on Growth and Change Considerations was held for members of Council and their staff on 2022 September 28. The first part of the session focused on the financial impacts of growth citywide, while the second part focused on investments in growth in established areas. Both sessions triggered thoughtful ideas and discussion about how Calgary is expected to grow and change, and how growth helps meet the city building goals articulated in the Municipal Development Plan. Council directed through IP2022-0545 that a summary of the established area part of the session be provided for the Corporate Record by way of a Briefing update to Executive Committee.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

On 26 July 2022 Council directed Administration to:

*“prepare information for discussion on an updated Established Area Growth Framework that: (a) Incorporates other Established Area growth facilitating work including, but not limited to, Calgary Plan, Multi-Community Local Area Plan, Land Use Bylaw Renewal, Main Streets, Transit Oriented Development, Urban Infrastructure; and (b) Includes an enhanced Established Areas investment/funding proposal. And include the information at the September Accounting for Growth Learning Session, with a subsequent request to provide as a Briefing to be added to the Corporate Record to the 2022 October 18 Executive Committee Meeting”.*

### Learning Session Key Takeaways

The session part on the established area growth framework for planning and investment covered the following five key areas of discussion:

#### **1. Established area growth is foundational to meeting economic, social and climate resiliency goals**

- Calgary’s population is expected to grow by approximately 88,000 in the next four years. Accommodating that increase requires a balanced approach that provides growth opportunities in all areas of the city, including the established area.
- A balanced approach to growth helps mitigate The City’s financial risks, while supporting quality of life for residents by prioritizing complete communities, providing modern and well-maintained public spaces and facilities, and by enabling choice in the housing market.

#### **2. Strategic investment and policy are both needed to enable the vision for growth as articulated in the Municipal Development Plan**

- All communities evolve over time as infrastructure and the housing stock ages and demographics change. As communities evolve, their investment needs and the policy guidance needed to support their evolution also changes.

# BRIEFING

Page 2 of 2

Item # 11.1

- To achieve the level of growth in established areas needed to meet the Municipal Development Plan's balanced growth goal, City-led investment and sustainable funding tools are needed to help build capacity in the enabling infrastructure and public spaces.
  - Clear, well-supported policy and regulation is also needed to guide growth. Ongoing Local Area Planning is the process by which the future of these areas is envisioned and planned.
- 3. *Established area growth investment programs focus on increasing capacity of public spaces and infrastructure to support more people and activity***
- Investment in growth increases the capacity of infrastructure, utility networks, and public spaces so communities can better support existing and new people and activity. Because it is difficult to create more public spaces in the established area, investments instead focus on increasing the usability of existing public areas through such things as streetscape improvements, active mobility and traffic-related improvements, park and recreational improvements, in addition to capacity upgrades to the utility networks.
  - A secondary goal of growth investments is to enhance the vibrancy and desirability of established area communities, so they can continue to attract new residents and businesses. A part of achieving this goal is providing accessible and modernized amenities and services that people are looking for in their communities.
- 4. *Many City initiatives are enabling and supporting growth in the established area***
- There are three programs under the Citywide Growth Strategy driving investments and process improvements to support the established area: (1) Main Streets; (2) Established Area Growth and Change Strategy; and (3) the Transit Oriented Development Program.
  - There are several other City initiatives that help realize a range of important outcomes, and in doing so, also support growth in the established area. Examples include (1) the Water Utility; (2) City Facilities and Services; and (3) Community Mobility Investment Program.
- 5. *City initiatives that enable established area growth help achieve balanced growth, as set out in the Municipal Development Plan***
- Reliable and consistent funding allows for timely investment in growing established areas, which in turn enables the vision in modernized Local Area Plans, and the Municipal Development Plan, to be realized.
  - Primary funding for growth-related investments is through property tax revenues.
  - The Established Area Investment Fund and the recommended Annual Investment Program identified in the Citywide Growth Investment Portfolio (IP2022-0545) to replenish it, are good starts for continuous investment in the established area. Administration continues to work with other city builders to identify tools for ongoing investment.
  - In 2022 November, Council will see proposed investments that support the established area, balanced with all budget priorities.

## CONCLUSION

This Briefing summarizes the established areas investment part of the Council Learning Session held on 2022 September 28 and address the Council direction from IP2022-0545. The information shared regarding established area investment will also inform future Citywide Growth Strategy reporting and communications.

## ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1 – Council Learning Session: Growth Related Presentation Materials