

Planning and Development Services Briefing to

Infrastructure and Planning Committee

2023 November 08

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Local Area Planning Program Annual Lessons Learned

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a high-level annual summary of lessons learned for the Local Area Planning Program (Program) as directed by Council. These lessons learned are informed by the ongoing development of local area plans (LAPs).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Program works with communities to develop local area plans that provide guidance and direction on future growth and investment for communities across the city.

To date, three LAPs have been approved by Council: the North Hill Communities Local Area Plan, Westbrook Communities Local Area Plan and Heritage Communities Local Area Plan. Five local area plans are currently under development in the Greater Forest Lawn Communities, Riley Communities, Chinook Communities, South Shaganappi Communities and West Elbow Communities.

In 2023, lessons learned continue to inform our Program. Lessons learned implemented in 2023 include:

- **Conversation Series:** Beginning with the Heritage Communities Local Area Plan in early 2023, we incorporated a Conversation Series into our Phase 4 information sharing. This allows people to book time in small groups to chat with us about the local area plan and have time for us to answer more questions and discuss concerns after the final draft Plan was posted.
- **Youth Engagement Booklets:** In 2023, we developed youth engagement booklets to gather feedback from youth aged five to 12 years old. The booklets allow the Local Area Planning team to understand what is important to youth; how they move around their communities, what they love about their communities (and the city), and what they wish they had more of in their community.
- **Climate Policy:** In draft LAPs, we have integrated more robust climate policy throughout the General Policies sections in Chapter 2 which provides a more streamlined and holistic approach to climate policy.

For a detailed summary of lessons learned from the first five years of the Program, see Attachment 1.

Next Steps

As the Local Area Planning Program continues, our processes will continue to evolve based on internal and external feedback and our lessons learned.

In 2023, three new local area plans were launched in established areas, covering an additional 37 communities. Lessons learned from previously approved plans will be incorporated into the development of these new LAPs and will continue to improve the Program. In 2024, the

Program will utilize similar approaches from LAPs in established areas to embark on local area planning in greenfield areas.

New upcoming engagement and education materials include an educational video series and engagement opportunities for youth older than 12. In an effort to continue to improve and refine our education and engagement materials, we are also collecting in-depth insights through a series of in-person focus groups (conducted through a third-party research firm) as well as completing user experience testing on our online engagement pages.

ATTACHMENT

1. Local Area Planning Program Lessons Learned 2023

Approval: Debra Hamilton concurs with this report.

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