

## Planning and Development Services Briefing to

Infrastructure and Planning Committee

2024 November 06

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## Local Area Planning Program Annual Lessons Learned 2024

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### 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.

### 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.

In 2024, lessons learned continue to inform the Program. The Program's approach is foundationally one that explores, pilots, tests and tries new processes and engagement methods, which has resulted in favourable outcomes to date. Lessons learned implemented in 2024 include:

- **Student and Youth Engagement:** based on what we heard through targeted youth workshops, we tried new methods for connecting with students and youth in 2024 which included multiple on-campus and in-class engagement sessions, more interactive ways to participate, providing food as an incentive, stop-and-talk sessions and tailoring workshops to specific youth and young adult audiences.
- **Education and Accessibility:** we made enhancements to increase understanding of local area planning, including the creation of a comic-book style communication series to help simplify planning topics, educational videos to help build understanding around what local area planning is and why it is happening, new colour-blind accessible versions of the building scale maps and expanded language translation initiatives to reduce barriers to participation in the planning process.
- **Local Area Planning in Greenfield Communities:** In 2024, we began work on four ASP projects in greenfield communities. As an evolving business practice, First Nations Traditional Knowledge Keepers offered their experiences and knowledge through guided walk-throughs of sites pre-development. This led to significant awareness building that will inform place-making policies of the plans.

For a detailed summary of lessons learned from the past year, see Attachment 1.

### *Next Steps*

As plans currently underway are brought forward to Council in 2025, the next local area plans will be sequenced in alignment with Council direction. As the Local Area Planning Program advances, our processes will continue to evolve based on internal and external feedback and our lessons learned.

Other work planned for 2025 includes the development of a Planning Liaison program, continued coordination and alignment with the future Calgary Plan and Zoning Bylaw and planning for an enhanced education session on the Local Area Planning Program for members of Council following the 2025 municipal election.

# BRIEFING

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## ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Local Area Planning Program Lessons Learned 2024

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General Manager Debra Hamilton concurs with the information in this Briefing.