

## **SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW**

---

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On 2014 January 13, Council directed Administration to report back on a strategy and any budgetary impacts of addressing the requirements of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. As of 2014 June, the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan has not been legislated (through the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*) by the Province. Administration has identified steps that will be necessary once the Province has legislated the Plan. Budget adjustments may be required in the future but no new resources are required with this report.

### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommends that Council receive this report for information.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

On 2014 January 13, Council considered report IGA2014-0054 in-camera and directed that: Administration prepare a letter of transmittal from the City Manager's Office to the Province of Alberta communicating The City of Calgary Response to the Draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan 2014-2024, Surface Water Quality Management Framework and Air quality Management Framework before the 2014 January 15 Provincial deadline;

Direct Utilities and Environmental Protection (UEP) and Planning Development & Assessment (PDA) to collaboratively develop a strategy addressing the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* required compliance declaration and range of implications and budget impacts to implement the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and report back to Council no later than 2014 July;

On 2013 February 04 at its Special Meeting, Council considered report C2013-0023 in-camera and directed that:

Administration continue to participate with the Calgary Regional Partnership to ensure The City's strategic interests are met and monitor Provincial decisions relating to the Calgary Metropolitan Plan and South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, reporting to Council as appropriate.

On 2011 December 05, Council considered report IGA 2011-55 and directed that:

Administration prepare a letter of transmittal to the Government of Alberta communicating The City of Calgary's Response to the Regional Advisory Council's 'Advice to the Government of Alberta for the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan' before the 2011 December 19 deadline;

Administration report through the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, on the progress of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan once there is significant development on this file.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2014 January, The City of Calgary provided feedback to the Government of Alberta on the Draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (IGA2014-0054). To date, the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan has not been legislated under the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*. The City

## **SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW**

---

supports the Province's efforts to introduce integrated planning at a regional scale. It is recognized that certain sustainability issues cannot be managed without consideration of impacts beyond Calgary's municipal boundaries.

Staff from Planning, Development and Assessment, Utilities and Environmental Protection, Law and Parks will be ready to respond to South Saskatchewan Regional Plan once it is in full force and effect. The project will be led through Planning, Development and Assessment. Current legislation in the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* (as outlined in Attachment 1) requires local governments to review their regulatory instruments (broadly defined as policies, bylaws and procedures) to determine if any new regulatory instruments or changes to existing are required to comply with the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. Within 5 years of formal adoption of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, The City must file a compliance declaration with the Land Use Secretariat.

In the short term, Administration will implement the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan through existing resources, programs and processes. Administration will adapt to the new regional framework over time.

### **INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

A cross department team from Planning Development and Assessment, Utilities and Environmental Protection, Law and Parks have established a foundation to move quickly upon legislation of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. Once the Plan comes into effect, it will be analyzed relative to The City's existing policies and programs. This analysis will inform the preparation of The City's required compliance declaration.

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

Future work will be undertaken to communicate the requirements of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan to staff and how their work contributes to The City's integration of the Plan.

Research will be undertaken relative to the compliance declaration involving Government of Alberta staff and staff from other affected local governments.

### **Strategic Alignment**

Both the *Municipal Government Act* and the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* require local governments to align and comply with the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan as outlined in Attachments 1 and 2. Planners and planning authorities will be required to consider the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan in the course of their work and jurisdiction. (*Municipal Government Act*, Section 630(2))

The Municipal Development Plan states in Policy 1.3.2 and Policy 5.C.5 that The City is aligned with the aspirations of the Calgary Regional Partnership and the Calgary Metropolitan Plan.

### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

The South Saskatchewan Regional sets long-term regional economic, environmental and social goals. The City's overall quality of life and sustainability is tied to the triple bottom line health of

## **SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW**

---

the broader region. The citizens of Calgary will benefit from the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and The City's compliance with the Plan in the future.

### **Financial Capacity**

#### **Current and Future Operating Budget**

There are no immediate Operating Budget implications associated with this report. In future years, budget adjustments may be necessary and will be identified in a future report to Council.

#### **Current and Future Capital Budget**

There are no immediate Capital Budget implications associated with this report. Any necessary budget adjustments will be identified in a future report to Council.

### **Risk Assessment**

Administration is ready for the eventual legislation of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. Any significant risks will be communicated in future reports to Council.

Administration continues to track legislation of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan as a sub-regional plan to the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. Any decision to legislate or not legislate the Calgary Metropolitan Plan through this means or another legislative method will be communicated to Council in a future report.

### **REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):**

While the Province has not yet legislated the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, Administration have worked to ensure that resources are well positioned to respond. Project leadership and across departmental Administrative working group have been established. Administration will utilize existing resources and programs as a starting point. In future years, budget adjustments may be necessary and will be identified in future reporting to Council.

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan will require local governments and provincial decision makers to consider cumulative impacts on air quality, surface water, biodiversity and other aspects of the environment. The Province will monitor the region's environmental health and actions may become necessary to mitigate negative regional environmental impacts. As a result, the citizens of Calgary will benefit from the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and the City's compliance with the Plan.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Alberta Land Stewardship Act (Division 3 – Compliance Declaration)
2. Municipal Government Act Section 630 (2)