

Planning & Development Report to
SPC on Planning and Urban Development
2019 March 06

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
PUD2019-0253

City Planning and Policy Priorities 2019 – Workplan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report concludes Administration's conversation with Council on the City Planning and Policy Service Line's policy priorities for 2019. In January and February of 2019 Administration engaged Council through two previous reports to the SPC on Planning and Urban Development and a working session with some Council members on 2019 January 21. That conversation informed the proposed policy priorities and their approval by Council on 2019 February 25. Prioritization is required to ensure that Administration is addressing Council's key concerns and that City resources are used most effectively.

The proposed workplan in Attachment 1 aligns Administration's resources with Council's priorities and key concerns. Council is also being asked to direct Administration, through the recommendations of this report to apply new timelines to those initiatives that were not identified as a priority in 2019. In addition, Administration is also proposing new timelines for some initiatives that did not have a specific, Council-directed report back date, but are being identified in the workplan to be transparent and establish clear expectations. Rationale for the new timelines is provided in Attachment 2.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the SPC on Planning and Urban Development recommend that Council:

1. Direct Administration to prioritize its resources to deliver the initiatives on the proposed City Planning and Policy Service Line Workplan 2019 as provided in Attachment 1; and
2. Adjust the reporting timelines for:
 - a. Report PUD2018-1022, Developed Areas Guidebook Update and Implementation, to return to Council, through the SPC on Planning and Urban Development no later than Q3 2019;
 - b. Report PUD2018-0549, Transit Oriented Development Implementation Strategy, to return to Council, through the SPC on Planning and Urban Development no later than Q4 2019;
 - c. Report C2018-1337, Landfill – Subdivision and Development Regulation Setbacks, to return to Council, through the SPC on Planning and Urban Development no later than Q4 2020; and
 - d. Report PUD2018-0826, Hillhurst/Sunnyside Area Redevelopment Plan Amendment, to return to Council, through the SPC on Planning and Urban Development no later than Q4 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPC ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, DATED 2019 MARCH 06

That the Administration Recommendations contained in Report PUD2019-0253, be adopted.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2019 February 25 Council approved the recommendations and the proposed policy priorities for 2019 as per report PUD2018-0145, 2019 February 06, and directed Administration to report back to the 2019 March 06 regular meeting of the SPC on Planning and Urban Development with an updated policy workplan for 2019 based on the priorities.

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On 2019 February 06, through report PUD2018-0145, the SPC on Planning and Urban Development recommended that Council direct Administration to:

1. Base its policy workplan for 2019 on the six proposed policy priority areas for 2019 as contained in Attachment 2, after the following amendments on page 2 of 2:
 - Priority 1:
Change Priority title to 'Toward the One Calgary Plan: Renewing the MDP/CTP'
 - Priority 2:
Change Priority title to 'Comprehensive and City-Wide Growth Strategy'
 - Priority 4:
Delete the word 'Strategy' from the Priority title
 - Priority 6:
Change Priority title to 'Downtown Resilience'; and
2. Report back to the 2019 March 06 regular meeting of the SPC on Planning and Urban Development with an updated policy workplan for 2019.

On 2019 January 09 the SPC on Planning and Urban Development referred report PUD2019-0019, City Planning and Policy Priorities 2019, back to Administration to return to the 2019 February 06 Regular Meeting of the SPC on Planning and Urban Development with a recommended workplan for 2019.

BACKGROUND

Since 2019 January Administration has engaged Council on the areas and types of policy work that the City Planning and Policy Service Line should give priority to in 2019. Prioritization is required to ensure City resources are used most effectively and to ensure that Administration is addressing Council's key concerns.

The following six priority areas were developed through a working session and subsequently approved by the SPC on Planning and Urban Development on 2019 February 06 and Council on 2019 February 25:

- A. Toward the one Calgary Plan: Renewing the Municipal Development Plan/Calgary Transportation Plan
- B. Comprehensive and City-Wide Growth Strategy
- C. Inclusive and Modern Community Planning
- D. Main Streets and Transit Oriented Development Implementation
- E. A Renewed Land Use Bylaw
- F. Downtown Resilience

With its approval on 2019 February 25, Council directed Administration to base its policy workplan for 2019 on these six priority areas. Administration was also directed to present that workplan to the SPC on Planning and Urban Development on 2019 March 06. Attachment 1 contains the proposed workplan for 2019. Further detail on the priority areas is provided in Attachment 2.

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INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Administration evaluated the 64 policy initiatives that were already on the City Planning and Policy Service Line's workplan in 2019 January against these priority areas. Thirty-six initiatives were identified as serving a priority area and are recommended as a focus for resource allocation in 2019. Administration is, however, recommending slightly revised timelines for two of the priority initiatives (Developed Areas Guidebook and Transit Oriented Development Strategy Implementation). This is to enable a review by Calgary Planning Commission and to better align the two initiatives with each other.

Initiatives that do not serve a priority area were deemed less time critical and new timelines for their delivery are being proposed. These 13 'future initiatives' are also identified in the workplan in Attachment 1. Five of the future initiatives are work related to legislative processes that can be rescheduled without significant impacts (F1, F2, F3, F4 and F10). Six initiatives are for individual community plans (F5, F6, F7, F11, F12 and F13). The final two are for multi-community plans that will be advanced once the pilot initiative has been completed (F8, F9). Rationale for the new timelines is provided in Attachment 2.

Two of these initiatives had been directed by Council to report back by a specific date: Landfill – Subdivision and Development Regulation Setbacks, and the Hillhurst/ Sunnyside Area Redevelopment Plan Amendment. Since these new timelines would change that previous Council direction, individual Council consideration is needed for them. The recommendations of this report provide that new direction. The other future initiatives did not have a specific, Council-directed report back date or were initiated by Administration. They are being identified on the workplan to be transparent and establish clear expectations.

When resources are no longer required to deliver the original priority initiatives, Administration will use the same decision-making process to evaluate which of the future initiatives to start first.

Some initiatives on the proposed workplan for 2019 may not fully match the priorities. Administration is recommending that 15 initiatives be continued nonetheless because they are very close to completion and it would be a waste of previous efforts by both stakeholders and The City to terminate them at this point.

This prioritized workplan brings the existing policy staff capacity into closer balance with the workload. All of the approximately 55 planners that are available across the service line for policy initiatives will be required to complete this workplan. Any new work that Administration may be directed to undertake would likely impact their capacity and may require a redistribution of team resources. This could lead to a subsequent delay of ongoing, priority initiatives.

The proposed workplan allocates resources to 36 initiatives to advance the six priority areas as follows, and as shown in Attachment 1:

- A. Toward the one Calgary Plan: Renewing the Municipal Development Plan/Calgary Transportation Plan: five priority initiatives.
- B. Comprehensive and City-Wide Growth Strategy: seven priority initiatives.
- C. Inclusive and Modern Community Planning: one priority initiative, the North Hill multi-community pilot (with further initiatives to follow once the pilot has been completed).
- D. Main Streets and Transit Oriented Development Implementation: 12 priority initiatives.
- E. A Renewed Land Use Bylaw: one prioritized initiative.
- F. Downtown Resilience: ten priority initiatives.

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The initiatives on the workplan have been proposed because they align Council's priorities and concerns with Administration's resources. The recommendations in this report create clear expectations and enable Council to provide specific direction for each of the future initiatives.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Administration has been engaging stakeholders through its various policy initiatives. Both industry and community stakeholders expressed their support for a prioritized workplan when the initial report was presented to the SPC on Planning and Urban Development on 2019 January 09.

Administration's engagement since 2019 January has focused on gaining an understanding of Council's priorities and key concerns for 2019. The proposed workplan in this report is a result of that process. Both the community and industry stakeholders are aware of this process.

Strategic Alignment

The proposed workplan is intended to focus the work of the City Planning and Policy Service Line on achieving Council's policy priorities as approved on 2019 February 25 (PUD2019-0145). The identified initiatives also advance the Municipal Development Plan (MDP). The priority list is consistent with section 1.4.1 of the MDP, which describes one of the roles of the MDP as providing strategic direction to support corporate decisions around managing growth and change, prioritizing corporate initiatives and public investment.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

The proposed priorities strike a balance between addressing economic imperatives, fulfilling Council's direction and the need to advance social and environmental objectives. The initiatives support economic activity related to building and development, while still ensuring that communities are healthy, diverse and livable over the long term.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

There are no operating budget implications associated with this report as the proposed work will be carried out within existing budget allocations and within the approved One Calgary budget for 2019-2022. However, should Council direct Administration to undertake additional policy initiatives not currently considered a priority, additional specific budgets may be required.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no capital budget implications associated with this report.

Risk Assessment

The proposed workplan aligns Administration's resources with Council's priorities and key concerns. If these initiatives are not prioritized, or if Administration is tasked with unanticipated work that does not serve the priorities, The City's ability to provide an enabling planning environment for desired growth and development may be put at risk. If policy resources are not focused on delivering the proposed workplan it will take longer to complete work on enabling policies and plans that remove barriers and improve investor confidence.

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REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The initiatives on the workplan have been proposed because they align Council's priorities and concerns with Administration's resources. In order to prioritize resources, some Council-directed policy initiatives must be rescheduled to a future date. The recommendations in this report enable Council to consider the proposed new timelines and provide specific direction for each of the future initiatives.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1 – City Planning and Policy Service Line Workplan 2019
2. Attachment 2 – Policy Priority Areas 2019 and Rationale for New Timeline Recommendations