

Urban Strategy Report to  
SPC on Planning and Urban Development  
2019 June 05

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
PUD2019-0744

## Health Impact Assessment Update

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a progress update on the HealthYYC Initiative for Council's information and responds to Council's direction to report on this Initiative. The HealthYYC Initiative is supported by an informal advisory board as per Council's direction, with the focus to advance the inclusion of health principles into planning and development policy and/or practices. This report provides an update on the strategy including, accomplishments, and next steps.

The HealthYYC Initiative is designed to provide a framework that will capture many perspectives and ideas together to build and create opportunities to further support the inclusion of health in building and sustaining our communities. The advisory board is City-led and co-chaired by Urban Strategy and an appointed member from Urban Land Institute (ULI) and consists of Administration and key external stakeholders who represent a range of partners committed to building healthy communities. The initial direction from Council was to look at integrating the Eight Healthy Planning Principles into policy, however while working with development partners such as BILD Calgary Region, ULI and National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP), community partners and health advocacy groups such as Alberta Health Services, VIVO and Federation of Calgary Communities the direction changed from policy alone to focus on how to operationalize the Eight Healthy Planning Principles through policy and/or best practices. Through various meetings the advisory board concluded that the most effective method to operationalize the Eight Healthy Planning Principles was to develop a tangible resource that support the different groups represented by the advisory board, and serve as a source of information for other policy projects. This resource is a Playbook for Building Healthy Communities in Calgary.

The advisory board has completed two out of the three action areas that they set out to accomplish. The next phase will focus on the third action area – which will largely work towards the development of a Playbook for Building Healthy Communities in Calgary. This will focus on providing the tools and research for all partners, identifying barriers and developing opportunities to support the development of healthy community building. The focus on providing research, examples of best practices, education and building partnerships will advance the facilitation of building healthy communities while providing information that could shape planning and development policy.

#### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

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

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Direct Administration to report back to Council, through the SPC on Planning and Urban Development, on the progress of the HealthYYC Initiative no later than 2021 June

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

At the 2017 May 29 Regular Meeting of Council, the Health Impact Update was adopted as follows:

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ADOPT, Moved by Councillor Chabot, Seconded by Councillor Magliocca, that the SPC on Planning and Urban Development Recommendations contained in Report PUD2017-0390 be adopted, was follows:

That Council:

1. Receive this report on Health Impact Assessment Update with the attached HealthYYC Initiatives terms of reference for information; and
2. Direct Administration to report back to Council, through the SPC on Planning and Urban Development, on the progress of the HealthYYC Initiative no later than 2019 Q2.

At the 2017 January 23 Regular Meeting of Council, the Health Impact Assessment Update was adopted as follows:

ADOPT, Moved by Councillor Chabot, Seconded by Councillor Colley-Urquhart, that the SPC on Planning and Urban Development Recommendations contained in Report PUD2017-0016 be adopted, **after amendment**, as follows:

That Council:

1. Receive the report on Health Impact Assessment for Information; and
2. Direct Administration to report to Council, through the SPC on Planning & Urban Development, by no later than 2017 May, on a terms of reference for a committee, including stakeholder roles, to develop recommendations to advance the inclusion of health principles into planning and development policy and/or practices.

At the 2016 September 26 Regular Meeting of Council, the Health Impact Assessment Update – Deferral Report was adopted as follows:

“ADOPT, Moved by Councillor Pootmans, Seconded by Councillor Pincott, that Council:

1. Reconsider its decision contained in the minutes of the 2015 December 07- 08 meeting of Council, with respect to the adopted motion arising out of Report CPC2015-218 to bring a HIA presentation to a 2016 Strategic Council Meeting;
2. Direct Administration to bring forward the presentation on the Health Impact Assessment approach including healthy planning principles and ramifications, to Council through the SPC on PUD; and
3. Defer this item to return to the SPC on PUD no later than Q1 2017.”

At the 2015 December 07 Combined Meeting of Council, the following Motion Arising was moved by Councillor Woolley:

“MOTION ARISING, Moved by Councillor Woolley, Seconded by Councillor Demong, that with respect to CPC2015-218, Council direct Administration to bring forward a presentation on the Health Impact Assessment approach including healthy planning principles and ramifications to a 2016 Strategic Council Meeting.”

This report responds to Council direction by providing an update on the progress of the HealthYYC Initiative.

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### **BACKGROUND**

In 2015, the Nose Creek Area Structure Plan introduced a Health Impact Assessment as a tool to deliver a new community policy plan that focused on the vision of building a healthy community. Utilizing research and development industry guidelines that support the connection between built environments and health, the area structure plan developed the Eight Healthy Planning Principles that guided the engagement process and shaped the policies within the plan. This work was the first policy plan adopted by Council that integrated a Health Impact Assessment into the planning process and resulted in the creation of new partnerships with health agencies, researchers, community groups and industry partners that all recognize the connection of the design and building of new communities to the health of the people that live in them.

In 2017 the HealthYYC Initiative was created to support the Council directed work to develop an approach that would integrate the Eight Healthy Planning Principles from the Nose Creek Area Structure plan into a best practice guide to act as a resource for the various participants in city building. It was identified that although there were various policies and plans that included elements supporting health, there was a need to operationalize this work. To action this approach, a terms of reference and an advisory board was created and presented to Council for information at the 2017 May 29 Regular meeting of Council, see Attachment 1: HealthYYC Terms of Reference. The current members of the HealthYYC advisory board includes a range of partners that are committed to building healthy communities, see Attachment 2: HealthYYC Initiative Advisory Board Members.

The focus of the HealthYYC advisory board is the development of a Playbook for Building Healthy Communities in Calgary. The intent of this document is to offer a resource that is shaped around the Eight Healthy Planning Principles that support all partners in designing and building healthy communities at the different stages of the planning process in Calgary.

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

The HealthYYC advisory board, since its formation in 2017 June, has focused on the goals of the initiative, which are to: connect, share and accelerate action towards positive health outcomes in building healthy communities for Calgary. The Eight Healthy Planning Principles remain as the foundational framework to organize research and best practices to produce a tool that would be useful to all partners involved in building healthy communities in Calgary. Goals one and two listed below have already occurred and will continue as they maintain the initiatives ability to provide new information that promote innovative solutions. Goal three is currently planned for next steps. See Attachment 3: HealthYYC Vision Diagram for a depiction of the connections between the planning principles, research, education, and the network of partners engaged.

#### **Progress to date:**

Progress to date has focused on the first two goals as setting the foundation:

1. Connect goal: We have brought a multi-sectoral group together with a common commitment to support the building of healthy communities for Calgary, and to foster

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new relationships and opportunities to work together. This enables the amplification of an individual organization's actions, events and support to a wider reaching audience. The work to support this goal will continue.

2. Share goal: Partners, through email communication send information of events, research projects and partnership opportunities to their organizations. Broadening the information sharing. A website was created as a place to share resource material on aspects that support healthy communities for anyone. The focus of this goal is education and building awareness. A Health Impact Assessment is a subject that has been of interest to the public and stakeholders and HealthYYC have made various presentations, hosted workshops and a training session.

### **Next steps:**

Going forward, the next steps will include shifting focus to the third goal which is about creating tangible tools to support this work in action:

3. Accelerate goal: Creation of a toolkit that would operationalize the Eight Healthy Planning Principles. The advisory board created the outline for the HealthYYC Playbook for Building Healthy Communities in Calgary. The proposed scope of this work includes:
  - a. A review of current City policies that support the Eight Healthy Planning Principles.
  - b. Collect examples of best practices that execute each of the Healthy Planning Principles with a focus on Calgary and other cities with similar variables (weather, regulator system, socio-economical demographics etc.).
  - c. Research and collate the physical, social and mental health benefits of the Healthy Planning Principles.
  - d. Host workshops with stakeholder groups by providing the training for a Health Impact Assessment, share the findings of the previous 3 steps, and collect information on current barriers that limit their ability to action the Eight Healthy Principles in the areas they operate or influence.
  - e. Compile the information with working subcommittees into a document that is organized by the different stages of community building at the City of Calgary (Policy, outline plan and subdivision, land use, development permit and building permit). This document would include tools that can be used by various partners, such as administration, community groups, and circulation groups like Alberta Health Services, applicants, developers, and builders as they participate in the city-building process.

The advisory board believes that the Playbook will facilitate the development of building healthy communities. And will prioritize this work by identifying funding options and project delivery.

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

The HealthYYC Initiative consists of partners that volunteer their time and staff that attend the meetings to act as conduits for the business units they represent on potential alignment with their projects, and research in their fields that would be valuable to the group.

Key outcomes of the meetings to date include:

- Development of a three-prong approach as shown in Attachment 3.

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- On 2017 December 12 a full day workshop on Health Impact Assessments was held with 36 people attending. It included representation from Alberta Health Services, City of Calgary, community groups, development partners, health advocacy groups and the University of Calgary.
- The publication of a research paper that involved the City and The University of Calgary on the connection between built form and health. This was recently recognized by Health Canada.
- Promoting and connecting with the work by Alberta Health Services.
- Supporting the variety of community work and research by Vivo which includes but not limited to:
  - Testing of the Eight Healthy Planning Principles with their community in the development of the Vivo Expansion Project;
  - Vivo's Creating Coventry model that starting as a pilot project with the City and is now a tool for other communities looking to reimagining their existing community parks;
  - Vivo Gen H Play Project is in collaboration with the Public Health Agency on a \$3.5M four-year project that looks at shifting the needle on chronic disease and influence the design of typical suburban neighborhoods.
- Developing the framework for one comprehensive document that would be valuable for all partners in building healthy communities. One document promotes transparency and collaboration between the various stakeholder groups through developing a common understanding and language of the research, best practices, and steps to implement the design and building of healthy communities. The format of the document will be organized to align with the Eight Healthy Planning Principles and then by the various stages of the planning process. Subcommittees have been created to start the Playbook and this work will continue into 2020.

### Strategic Alignment

The HealthYYC Initiative would directly support many City of Calgary priorities, policies and guidelines. They include many of the 2019-2022 Citizen Priorities such as: A prosperous city, A city that moves, A healthy and green city, and A city of safe and inspiring neighborhoods, as well as the Municipal Development plan (MDP) and the 100 Resilient Cities. See Attachment 4: Strategic Alignment for more detail.

### Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

#### Social

The HealthYYC Initiative focuses on creating and sustaining a health mind set towards building healthy communities, which impacts all Calgarians. The Eight Healthy Planning Principles are an example of this approach that aims to improve the physical and mental health of Calgarians and provide social, environmental and economic benefits. See Attachment 5: Eight Healthy Planning Principles from the Nose Creek Area Structure Plan and Health Impact Assessment.

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### **Environmental**

Many of the principles support prioritizing non-motorized modes of transportation which would result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Other health principles are about the provision of healthy food within walking distance of residential areas, and respecting and integrating the natural landscape into the community design. These would result in reduction of our ecological footprint, improvement in air and water quality, and maintain and enhance biodiversity.

### **Economic**

Real estate experts through the Urban Land Institute and local industry partners indicate that building healthy communities have economic returns. The Eight Healthy Planning Principles focus on creating walkable communities (which is more equitable) by creating grid networks that include amenities and mixed-use buildings, at a scale that is comfortable for people. Studies have concluded that walkable communities with a mix of uses attract the two largest population cohorts, the aging population (baby boomers) and the young working adults (millennials), who will then invest in their community and support the local retailers and business. In addition, the focus on mobility of people over cars creates narrower roadways that can reduce the cost to construct and maintain while providing more developable land.

To date, the HealthYYC Initiative has optimized the use of City resources through collaborative engagement, by building relationships with internal and external stakeholders that have projects and programs that would feed into building healthy communities in Calgary. Further, the initiative is not a formal City of Calgary Committee, Board or Commission which reduces the amount of time and resources associated with the protocol of regular reporting and appointments. Time and resources are focused on outcome-based action in partnership with external stakeholders. Other groups have approached HealthYYC to share the Playbook once it is completed as it would inform their projects.

### **Financial Capacity**

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

The initiative is being coordinated by Urban Strategy – Implementation. The Urban Strategy Implementation portfolio coordinates the delivery of public realm projects that strives to improve the quality of life for those in the community through programming and design projects. The approach and outcome of this work supports and benefits from the research and best practices around the Eight Healthy Planning Principles.

To support the importance of this work the advisory board will explore different resourcing models to support this work including grants, potential partnerships with ULI and/or local consultants. Administration will propose that this would be included in the City Planning & Policy 2020 work plan.

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

There is currently no impact to Capital Budget.

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### **Risk Assessment**

The HealthYYC Initiative mitigates the risk of not meeting the Council priority for Calgary to be a prosperous, healthy and green city with safe and inspiring neighborhoods. Research, industry partners and public health agencies have called attention to the connection between health and the built form and there is value and need to support development projects and initiatives through partnership in building healthy communities in Calgary.

There are a variety of existing City of Calgary policies that touch on health, however there is no plan in place that operationalizes these policies with external groups and members of the community. It has been identified by various advisory board members that the planned work for the HealthYYC Playbook for Building Healthy Communities in Calgary which incorporates the Eight Healthy Planning Principles and best practices, would advance other City of Calgary policy projects, support our partners in their community work and advancing development opportunities. In absence of this work being completed the momentum of the committee and the associated research, and valued approach towards city building with our partners would be significantly hampered.

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

- (1) The HealthYYC Initiative continues to be of interest to both our internal and external partners as it provides value and a resource to their work.
- (2) The HealthYYC initiative supports Council's direction for how the City can advance the inclusion of health in building communities in an effective, efficient and collaborative manner.
- (3) The members of the HealthYYC Initiative advisory board see the value of the Playbook for building Health Communities which benefit current policy work, support development activity and improve quality of life for Calgarians.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. HealthYYC Initiative Terms of Reference
2. HealthYYC Advisory Board Membership
3. HealthYYC Vision Diagram
4. Strategic Alignment
5. Eight Healthy Planning Principles
6. Letters of Support