

Official Community Plan Redesign – Introduction Review

ISSUE

As part of the Official Community Plan Redesign project, a draft of a new Official Community Plan (OCP) has been developed. This report provides an introduction to the redesign project, as well as an overview of content expected to be included in the proposed Official Community Plan.

BACKGROUND

The OCP is a statutory plan created under the authority of the *Planning and Development Act, 2007*, that provides a comprehensive policy framework to shape the long-term growth and development of Saskatoon. Its purpose is to guide the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development of the community through a broad set of goals, objectives and policies. These policies provide a framework for decision-making that guides future development and redevelopment in Saskatoon and helps to achieve the community Saskatoon residents collectively desire and envision.

Since the last major update of the OCP (which occurred in 2009), a number of initiatives have helped shape a new direction for the City of Saskatoon (City), including the: *Saskatoon Speaks* Community Visioning process; Plan for Growth and associated initiatives; and adoption of the Strategic Plan and its subsequent update. Consolidating these changes into the OCP ensures a consistent direction for development in the city and provides residents, City Council and Administration a clearly defined vision for the city's future, supported by the policies necessary to achieve that vision.

CURRENT STATUS

Long Range Planning has led the Official Community Plan Redesign project. The intent of the project is to update the OCP to appropriately reflect the current vision for Saskatoon, based on current management documents and endorsed initiatives (see Appendix 1 for a listing of documents which have informed updates to the OCP). The result includes a reorganization of the layout of the OCP to align it with City Council's Strategic Plan, including making use of the Strategic Goals as titles for individual sections of the document (see Appendix 2 for the draft Table of Contents).

Drafts of each section have been completed, based on an extensive review of City of Saskatoon management documents and endorsed initiatives, as well as internal engagement with relevant City staff to confirm the direction. Internal engagement occurred throughout 2017, 2018 and 2019 and included meetings with representatives from 29 of 34 City divisions. The resulting updates to the OCP reflect this engagement, as well as the engagement that informed each guiding document or direction.

A comprehensive review and approval strategy has been developed to ensure all appropriate committees have the opportunity to review relevant sections of the

proposed OCP. Before the full document is presented for approval at a public hearing, an overview of each section of the proposed OCP will be shared with the Municipal Planning Commission. An overview of relevant content will be provided to each of the City's six advisory committees, as well as to City Council, through its Standing Policy Committees. In addition, City Council's lead on Strategic Priority Areas will be provided the opportunity to review and discuss the sections relevant to their Strategic Priority Area.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

This report provides an overview of the first three sections of the draft OCP. General details on each of these sections is included below, with additional information provided in Appendices 3, 4, and 5.

Section A – Introduction

This section provides an introduction to the OCP and its use. It includes updates to wording in the current OCP on its purpose and legislative context of the document. It also includes new content regarding the:

- 1) relationship of the OCP to other City plans and initiatives;
- 2) alignment of the OCP with the Strategic Plan, as well as the Multi-Year Business Plan and Budgeting process;
- 3) scope and horizon of the OCP, as well as how progress towards that horizon will be monitored; and
- 4) direction on how to read the OCP.

Details on this section are included in Appendix 3.

Section B – Our Local Context

This section provides an overview of Saskatoon's local context including information on the city's location, history of the area and its inhabitants, and details on the city's population, economy and land use. This is new content for Saskatoon's OCP, but its inclusion follows best practices from across Canada. The section provides an opportunity to honour the history of the area and its people, while also providing context on how Saskatoon has developed and grown into the city it is today. Details on this section are included in Appendix 4.

Section C – Civic Vision

This section includes the seven Strategic Goals and their descriptions as articulated in the Strategic Plan. Including these strategic goals in the OCP ensures alignment between the OCP and the Strategic Plan and helps connect the long-term vision for the city and the policies that are intended to help achieve that vision.

Included is a vision for the City of Saskatoon's relationships and partnerships with rights holders, key stakeholders and other orders of government. This includes content regarding:

- 1) Regional Context;
- 2) Indigenous Partners;
- 3) Reconciliation;
- 4) Wanuskewin Heritage Park;
- 5) The Meewasin Valley Authority
- 6) The University of Saskatchewan;
- 7) The Federal and Provincial Government; and
- 8) Public Engagement

Details on this section are included in Appendix 5.

NEXT STEPS

Reports providing an overview of the remaining sections of the proposed OCP will be provided to Municipal Planning Commission for review. As they are reviewed, updates to the draft OCP will be made as needed, based on discussions at the Municipal Planning Commission and the Advisory Committees. Once all sections have been reviewed, discussions and direction from the Municipal Planning Commission and the Advisory Committees will be summarized in a report to the Municipal Planning Commission. This report will provide an overview of the proposed OCP document and will include a recommendation that the report be forwarded to City Council recommending that, at the time of a public hearing, City Council consider the Administration's recommendations that the proposed OCP Bylaw be approved.

APPENDICES

1. Official Community Plan Redesign - Guiding Documents
2. Official Community Plan – Proposed Table of Contents
3. Proposed Content of Section A - Introduction
4. Proposed Content of Section B – Our Local Context
5. Overview of Section C – Civic Vision

REPORT APPROVAL

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