

# Exhibition Local Area Plan

## ISSUE

This report provides an overview of the strategies and recommendations contained within the Exhibition Local Area Plan.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council that the key strategies and recommendations in the Exhibition Local Area Plan, as outlined in this report, be approved.

## BACKGROUND

A Local Area Plan (LAP) is a community-based approach to developing comprehensive neighbourhood plans. It enables residents, business owners, property owners, community groups and other stakeholders direct input into determining the future of their neighbourhood.

The LAP Program is administered by the Neighbourhood Planning Section, Planning and Development Division. Once completed, a LAP establishes the vision and goals to guide the growth and development of a neighbourhood, and also includes specific recommendations intended to address neighbourhood issues and opportunities. LAPs have short-term and long-term recommendations, with implementation to begin immediately.

The Exhibition LAP was presented for information to the Municipal Planning Commission on August 25, 2020. It was also presented at the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee on September 2, 2020.

## DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Exhibition LAP process began with a neighbourhood survey and introductory public meeting in January 2019 to identify issues within the neighbourhood. In total, nine community meetings, three neighbourhood surveys, five safety audits and two open houses were held at various stages of the process. Area stakeholders were invited to take part in topic-specific meetings and safety audits to discuss the identified issues and explore solutions to address them. The Exhibition LAP is the result of input from more than 190 neighbourhood residents and stakeholders, along with significant contributions from over 70 members of Administration. Additional details of stakeholder involvement are included in the Exhibition LAP (Appendix 1).

A list of potential recommendations was created, circulated to Administration for comment and then presented to the community for review during the final open house held on February 12, 2020. Comments from the community were incorporated into the draft report, which was then circulated through Administration again for final review.

### Exhibition LAP Recommendations

Key Exhibition LAP recommendations will result in:

- a) steps to address the impacts major events have on the area;
- b) assistance for the local community association to help them with their unique challenges so they can better serve the area;
- c) investigations into how best to protect and support the urban forest in the area; and
- d) addressing safety concerns related to the commercial area at the intersection of Ruth Street and Lorne Avenue.

The Exhibition LAP contains a total of 36 recommendations related to the following topics:

- a) Land Use & Infill Development (4);
- b) Parks, Open Spaces & Riverfront (6);
- c) Municipal Infrastructure & Services (1);
- d) Property Maintenance Regulations & Standards (1);
- e) Traffic & Transit (2);
- f) Community Capacity (3);
- g) Impacts of Major Events (4); and
- h) Neighbourhood Safety (15).

All 36 recommendations are defined in detail and additional information is provided in the Exhibition LAP (Appendix 1).

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

LAPs are created within the operating budget of the Neighbourhood Planning Section, Planning and Development Division. As appropriate and available, other departments support certain operating and capital investments needed to implement LAPs. Any additional financial impact resulting from the adoption of the Exhibition LAP and implementation of its recommendations, would be the subject of a further report.

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The amalgamated Queen Elizabeth Exhibition Haultain Community Association (QEXCA) received an invitation to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services meeting, as well as the City Council meeting when the Exhibition LAP will be considered for approval.

Approval of the Exhibition LAP by City Council will require a commitment by Administration to implement the 36 recommendations. If approved, the Exhibition LAP recommendations will be added to the implementation schedule and prioritized for

completion over several years. Any recommendations requiring funding beyond existing operating budgets will be subject of a further report and submitted for consideration in future budget years.

The previous 15 LAPs have resulted in a total of 654 recommendations. To date, 451 of 654 recommendations (69%) have been completed. A methodology has been developed to prioritize the recommendations that have not yet been completed. Each recommendation is evaluated using a number of criteria, including input from the community, anticipated time frame for completion, current administrative programs and related projects and the level of resources required for completion. The Neighbourhood Planning Section is responsible for coordinating the implementation of LAP and Safety Audit Report recommendations, but many also require actions from other members of Administration.

Correspondence and progress reports will be provided to the QEXCA keeping them and community members informed of implementation actions. Additional engagement with community stakeholders may be conducted to gather input for the implementation of specific recommendations.

The Planning and Development Division provides an Annual Report to City Council which includes an update on the LAP Program and the status of recommendations within each LAP neighbourhood.

### **APPENDICES**

1. Exhibition Local Area Plan– September 2020

### **REPORT APPROVAL**

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