

State of the Official Community Plan

ISSUE

The newly designed and updated Official Community Plan (OCP) was recently approved by Council. To ensure the OCP remains reflective of the current state of the city, Administration is committed to completing an assessment of the OCP every four years through a report called the State of the OCP. The first iteration of this report is to outline tools, processes, targets, reports and policies that can be used to help achieve the City of Saskatoon's (City) long-term vision, along with identification of amendments, mechanisms or approaches to continuously improve the OCP. This report can also help to inform updates to the City's Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND

In June of 2020, City Council unanimously approved [Bylaw No. 9700, Official Community Plan Bylaw, 2020](#). This was followed by ministerial approval from the Province of Saskatchewan in August, resulting in a new OCP for Saskatoon. The OCP is a statutory plan created under the authority of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*. It is the collective long-term civic vision for Saskatoon guiding the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development of the community. For more information on the role and purpose of the OCP, see the Introduction section of Appendix 1.

Due to recency of the approval of the OCP, this first iteration of the State of the OCP report focuses on introducing the intent of this report moving forward and the tools that will be used to inform it. The next iteration of this report is scheduled for December 2024.

A report on the State of the OCP will occur every four years as an assessment, as outlined in Section A5 of the OCP. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure the OCP is reflective of the city's current state and to identify progress made toward achieving Saskatoon's long-term civic vision. It will provide a predictable and consistent way to maintain and monitor the OCP, while also identifying potential opportunities or initiatives needed to help achieve the City's Strategic Goals moving forward.

DISCUSSION

The OCP provides both inspiration and direction through a comprehensive policy framework to ensure Saskatoon's long-term civic vision is integrated into all aspects of planning, decision-making and priority-setting for the City. It is used in conjunction with the City's Strategic Plan and Business Plan and Budgeting process. The OCP provides the long-term vision, while the Strategic Plan identifies the short-term (four-year) priorities for achieving that vision. The Business Plan and Budgeting process is used to operationalize and provide the necessary funding for these priorities.

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The following are examples of tools, processes, targets, reports or policies used to help achieve the civic vision and monitor the progress toward achieving it (see the State of the OCP section of Appendix 1).

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan provides an opportunity to highlight the civic vision by bringing clarity and further detail to strategic priority areas. As the strategic planning process begins in early 2021, it will be important to consider its relationship to other management documents and endorsed initiatives. Management documents include such things as: bylaws, policies, strategies, plans, procedures and guidelines. In terms of the hierarchy of management documents, the OCP provides a comprehensive policy framework to achieve the civic vision and can provide inspiration for priorities included in the Strategic Plan. Both documents have the ability to set high-level direction for the City.

Growth Monitoring Report

The [Growth Monitoring Report](#) is an annual report that provides information on residential, commercial and industrial development in Saskatoon, as well as a number of other growth-related indicators for Saskatoon. The report provides data that helps monitor progress toward policy goals, including infill targets. It includes data used to plan servicing needs that may also be used to inform policy and program reviews.

Plan for Growth Infill Targets

The [Growth Plan to Half a Million](#) (Plan for Growth) sets direction for how the city will grow. A key direction from the Plan for Growth is a shift in how and where the city will develop. It includes the goal of 50% of new growth being infill. Of this, 25% will be Strategic Infill, 10% Neighbourhood Infill and 15% Corridor Growth. These infill targets are one of the City's most significant and measurable metrics for monitoring progress toward policy goals.

Policy Direction

The OCP includes statements that support the preparation, implementation and maintenance of plans, policies and guiding documents. This includes plans which have been received, endorsed or adopted by City Council, as well as some that are still in development. Whether or not the City is accomplishing these policy directives is a metric for monitoring progress toward achieving the long-term civic vision. Over the next four years, Administration will monitor these achievements through a scan of management documents and internal communication.

General Official Community Plan Maintenance

As part of the approval process, the OCP was presented to the Municipal Planning Commission and each advisory committee for feedback. Based on this feedback, a list of future edits was created for which recommendations for amendments can be brought forward as part of the maintenance of the OCP. Moving forward, various reports will be presented to the appropriate Standing Policy Committee, GPC and Council. Through ongoing engagement and communication with City departments, Administration will monitor proposed projects and initiatives for potential policy implications to the OCP.

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Any resulting recommendations for amendments to the OCP will be brought to City Council to ensure the OCP continues to appropriately reflect the City's direction.

NEXT STEPS

A report on the State of the OCP will be produced every four years and be presented to the Governance and Priorities Committee ahead of the strategic planning process. The next report is scheduled for December 2024. Future iterations of this report may include greater detail on a range of ongoing and proposed projects and initiatives that support the City's strategic goals and may result in future updates to the OCP. Over the next four years, on an annual basis, Administration will use the above-mentioned tools to monitor progress toward achieving Saskatoon's long-term civic vision. Administration will also monitor City Council directives and bring forward recommendations for amendments to the OCP, as needed.

In addition, the OCP will be monitored to help ensure it is used as intended; as the primary document, guiding development and city building in Saskatoon. Administration will develop and implement a strategy to introduce City departments and other relevant stakeholders to the newly approved OCP, providing support for its consistent use and maintenance. Administration will also establish processes for tracking work and decisions that may lead to future amendments to the OCP.

APPENDICES

1. State of the Official Community Plan

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Ashley Kostyniuk, Planner, Long Range Planning
Reviewed by: Tyson McShane, Manager of Long Range Planning
Lesley Anderson, Director of Planning and Development
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services

SP/2021/PD/GPC/ State of the Official Community Plan/gs