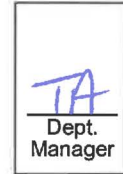


AGENDA INFORMATION

- ☒ Regular Meeting
☐ Other:

Date: October 19, 2020
Date: _____



The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

October 6, 2020

File: 13.6480.35/001.000

AUTHOR: Tina Atva, Manager of Community Planning

SUBJECT: Targeted OCP Review Update

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report entitled "Targeted OCP Review Update" dated October 6, 2020 is received for information;

AND THAT Council endorse the updated process and timeline as described in this report.

REASON FOR REPORT:

To provide Council with an update on the status of the Targeted Official Community Plan (OCP) Review in light of the disruptions caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This report presents a revised process and engagement schedule for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND:

On May 27, 2019, Council endorsed a targeted review of the District's OCP. Council indicated their support for the vision, goals, and strategic directions in the 2011 OCP and their desire to focus on implementation of the current OCP with a focus on four key topic areas: climate emergency, economy and employment lands, housing, and transportation. The final deliverable of the targeted review is an integrated action plan that provides a list of doable actions that can be implemented by Council.

The OCP is a robust guide to help Council, stakeholders, and residents affect positive change over a twenty-year time horizon. During the OCP's timeframe, it is anticipated that events and situations may change. As pointed out in the White Papers, changes since the 2011 adoption of the OCP have included:

- worsening levels of housing affordability and traffic congestion;
- increasing extreme weather events; and
- challenges around maintaining a viable business community.

Successes have also been achieved, including an increase in daily trips by walking and cycling.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated some of these issues. Changing and evolving circumstances will demand new responses. Accordingly, the OCP must be a “living document” that is resilient, yet flexible, as situations change. The Targeted OCP Review provides a constructive way to check in with the community and Council on which topics and actions should be prioritized, so that the OCP’s vision of a bright and sustainable future can be realized.

Several project milestones were met prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted below. However, due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the related temporary suspension of most Council and some municipal activities, the Targeted OCP Review was paused on March 24, 2020. While the project was intended to be completed in fall 2020, the process timeline is now being updated to reflect the disruptions and impacts caused by the pandemic. The milestones that were remaining at that time are also listed below.

Completed milestones

- ✓ Completed community-wide, statistically relevant telephone public opinion survey focused on the four topic areas of the Targeted OCP Review (October 2019);
- ✓ Completed six stakeholder workshops (February & March 2020);
- ✓ Delivered white papers and snapshots for each of the key focus areas of housing, transportation, economy and employment lands, and the climate emergency (March 2020); and
- ✓ Gained feedback from Council on the findings from two white papers: transportation, and economy and employment lands (March 9, 2020 Council Workshop).

Remaining milestones

- Council workshop to review the findings from the two remaining white papers: housing, and climate emergency;
- Community engagement on potential actions; and
- Action plan for Council consideration.

DISCUSSION:

The arrival of COVID-19 in our community warranted temporary suspension of Council and some municipal business, including Council workshops related to the Targeted OCP Review. This resulted in a delay in moving forward with community engagement as planned. The Targeted OCP Review engagement originally planned for the spring of 2020 was to include public information sessions, information pop-up events, focus groups, and an online survey. While the overarching objectives and strategy of the OCP Targeted Review public engagement plan remain valid and unchanged, some adjustments to the tools and tactics used to engage the community may be required in order to adhere to ongoing COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Impacts of COVID-19

The District has continued to deliver services to residents while adapting to the changing circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through an upcoming District-wide survey, Council and staff will learn more about COVID-19 impacts and responses in the community,

and how these may be appropriately integrated into the Targeted OCP Review discussions and public engagement. At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that the long-term impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are largely unknown and may not be clearly understood for months or years to come.

Community-wide survey on COVID-19

From October to December 2020, the District's Communications department intends to undertake a community-wide survey. It will seek to improve our understanding of community impacts and responses related to COVID-19, as part of a larger benchmark public opinion survey about communications and engagement in the District. The survey will, in part, aim to:

- Provide insight into how community members may have been impacted by the pandemic so far;
- Gauge if and how there may have been changes in opinion or shifts in priorities since the pandemic began; and
- Understand how issues related to the four OCP targeted review topic areas have been affected by COVID-19.

The findings of the survey will inform the approach for continued engagement on the Targeted OCP Review, amongst other District programs and projects. Survey results will be presented to Council as soon as they are available. A more detailed Targeted OCP Public Engagement plan will follow and is anticipated for either late 2020 or early 2021.

Targeted OCP Public Engagement

Upcoming engagement on the Targeted OCP Review will be conducted in accordance with public health recommendations for health safety and may still require avoidance of in-person engagement activities, as is the case in other Lower Mainland municipalities. The approach also will be informed by the findings of the District-wide survey. A variety of communications and engagement tools and tactics will allow for meaningful and safe community engagement, while seeking to achieve an equitable representation of respondents. Particular attention will be given to how to engage typically under-represented demographics, such as seniors, youth, and young adults, and residents who do not speak English fluently.

Updated Process and Timeline

Resumption of the Targeted OCP Review this fall will culminate with the final action plan delivered to Council in the fall of 2021. For the remainder of 2020, the focus will be on listening and learning about the impacts of COVID-19 through the community survey, and on gaining a better understanding on how the District can engage with the community in light of changing concerns and priorities.

Staff will work with the project consultants to develop and apply a COVID-19 lens and a social equity framework to the OCP's four topic areas. The COVID-19 lens seeks to understand what may have changed in the District at a high level (e.g. traffic and transit ridership, housing needs). It is important to note that as the pandemic and its effects continue

to evolve, the COVID-19 lens will be a snapshot in time and an illustration of how to look at the resiliency of the community.

Applying a social equity framework to the four topic areas has been a part of the Targeted OCP Review since its inception. However, given evolving concerns around equity, social justice, anti-racism and reconciliation, a more robust outlook is essential. For example, the potential for unintended impacts on community well-being, respect, social equity and diversity must be fully considered.

Staff are seeking Council's feedback on the process and timeline outlined in this report and shown in **Attachment 1**. The immediate next steps proposed for the Targeted OCP Review are to:

- conduct a community-wide survey that will lead to a better understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 in the District; this will inform upcoming engagement tactics;
- expand the social equity outlook on the OCP's four topic areas to include emerging concerns around equity, anti-racism and social justice; and
- review how each of the OCP's four key topic areas have been impacted by the shifts that have occurred since the start of the pandemic.

The final action plan is anticipated for fall 2021. The updated process and timeline for the Targeted OCP Review are intended to be responsive to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, the revised timeline and process may need to be further adjusted.

Staff will continue to provide regular email updates to Council at key milestones and if further shifting or adaptation of the process or timelines is needed.

Concurrence:

The Targeted OCP Review is supported by staff from the Community Planning, Development Planning, Parks, Engineering, Transportation, Environment, Corporate Services, and Communications departments.

Conclusion:

This report outlines a revised process and anticipated timeline for the Targeted OCP Review in light of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The revised engagement schedule will learn from a community-wide survey that will be conducted in fall 2020. The survey aims to better understand ongoing impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic and to inform municipal actions and project-specific engagement going forward.

Additional Council workshops and community input will be used to develop a draft action plan that is anticipated for Council consideration in September 2021, should there be no further pandemic-related delays. The action plan is intended to be a lasting document. It will reinforce successes to date, reflect Council's strategic directions and set clear priorities for the next decade.

OPTIONS:

1. THAT the report entitled "Targeted OCP Review Update" dated October 6, 2020 is received for information;

AND THAT Council endorse the updated process and timeline as described in this report (staff recommendation).

OR

2. THAT Council directs staff develop an alternative process to the process outlined in the report entitled "Targeted OCP Review Update" dated October 6, 2020, then report back to Council.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Atva
Manager of Community Planning

Attachment 1: Proposed Timelines and Activities

SUBJECT: Targeted OCP Review Update

October 6, 2020

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REVIEWED WITH:

- ☐ Community Planning _____
- ☐ Development Planning _____
- ☐ Development Engineering _____
- ☐ Utilities _____
- ☐ Engineering Operations _____
- ☐ Parks _____
- ☐ Environment _____
- ☐ Facilities _____
- ☐ Human Resources _____
- ☐ Review and Compliance _____

- ☐ Clerk's Office _____
- ☒ Communications GP
- ☐ Finance _____
- ☐ Fire Services _____
- ☐ ITS _____
- ☐ Solicitor _____
- ☐ GIS _____
- ☐ Real Estate _____
- ☐ Bylaw Services _____
- ☒ Planning JP

External Agencies:

- ☐ Library Board _____
- ☐ NS Health _____
- ☐ RCMP _____
- ☐ NVRC _____
- ☐ Museum & Arch. _____
- ☐ Other: _____

ATTACHMENT 1: Proposed Timelines and Activities

Table 1 summarizes the proposed timelines and activities for the remainder of the Targeted OCP Review and the steps to delivering the final action plan.

Table 1: Updated Process and Timeline

Phase	Estimated Timeline*	Activity
Phase 2	Fall 2020 (3 months)	<p>Updated Process and Timeline for Targeted OCP Review (Regular Meeting of Council, October 19, 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Seek Council's input on and endorsement of the updated process and timeline. <p>Community-wide survey on COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Seek to improve the District's understanding of community impacts related to COVID-19 and inform further engagement tactics.Report findings to Council as soon as available, along with refined OCP engagement process. <p>Apply a COVID-19 and social equity lens to the four topic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project consultant to develop and apply these two frameworks with staff support.Report findings to Council in workshops in early 2021.
	January-March 2021 (3 months)	<p>Council workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approximately 2-3 Council workshops anticipated to discuss COVID-19 impacts on the four topic areas, findings from the two remaining OCP white papers (housing and climate emergency), social equity lens, and a facilitated discussion on draft actions.A revised engagement plan that is informed by the community-wide survey on COVID-19 will be reported to Council.
	April-June 2021 (3 months)	<p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Engagement on draft actions and ideas for the action plan.
Phase 3	July 2021 (1 month)	<p>Draft Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a draft action plan that integrates community input.Deliver the draft action plan to Council for input.
	August-September 2021 (1 month)	<p>Final Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Incorporate Council's input into a final action plan for Council consideration.

*As the pandemic progresses, the timeline or activities may need to be revisited due to unforeseen circumstances.

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