

DATE: January 10, 2018

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Ian Wells, General Manager of Planning and Development

SUBJECT: Official Community Plan 5 Year Monitoring Report 2011 – 2016

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Official Community Plan 5 Year Monitoring Report 2011 – 2016
2. PowerPoint Presentation: Official Community Plan 5 Year Monitoring Report

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the report dated January 10, 2018 from the General Manager of Planning and Development titled “Official Community Plan 5 Year Monitoring Report 2011 - 2016” BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the opportunity to receive and review the Official Community Plan (OCP) 5 Year Monitoring Report (2011 – 2016). This is the first (OCP) Monitoring Report completed since the OCP’s adoption in June 2012. The report provides Council with an overview of how the goals and objectives of the OCP are being implemented. Further, the data collected and analyzed for this report may serve as a baseline for future monitoring and review of the OCP.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Council’s 2016-2018 Corporate Plan is rooted in the goals of the 2010 myPG plan and vision. In 2010, the myPG Integrated Community Sustainability Plan was completed to help Prince George realize a sustainable and prosperous future. The four areas of the myPG plan include social development, environment, economic development and city government. The OCP provides policy direction on achieving goals within these areas to support Prince George in achieving the vision set in the myPG process.

These long term goals informed the Official Community Plan and City operations and priorities within the City of Prince George. Through the myPG process, the community developed a vision for Prince George,

As BC’s northern capital, Prince George is a model for sustainable Canadian cities. The local environment is healthy, supporting a robust economy and an enviable quality of life for residents. Everyone has housing they can afford, good food on the table, and a strong, supportive network of friends and co-workers. Built on regional assets, the economy is strong and stable. A vibrant downtown, great communities, affordable lifestyle, and spectacular natural setting are Prince George’s greatest strengths.

- Vision of Prince George in 2040

The 5 Year Monitoring Report provides details on how the City is implementing the goals of the OCP in order to achieve the visions set through the OCP and myPG processes.

BACKGROUND:

Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw No. 8383, 2011

On June 25, 2012, Council adopted a new Official Community Plan (OCP) after extensive public engagement, consultation and research. The OCP is the shared vision for Prince George as a sustainable city over the next 15 years. It illustrates how the city should grow and what residents want the city to be like in the future. The OCP sets goals, objectives and policies to guide growth and change. The plan was developed with significant public involvement and reflects the community's vision, established within the myPG Plan which supports a vibrant downtown, great community, affordable lifestyle, and spectacular natural setting. The OCP identifies the following key directions that work to implement the community's vision of sustainability:

- Focus growth more strongly;
- Enhance the City;
- Prioritize walking, cycling and transit in key corridors;
- Encourage better energy systems;
- More affordable, accessible housing;
- Improve air quality;
- Support food and agriculture;
- Support leading solid waste management; and
- Emphasize implementation.

The OCP provides direction for planning and land use management decisions in the City, whether they are city-initiated or private development related. The OCP sets the direction on managing our current assets, as well as how we make land use decisions to determine if new assets should be taken on. To ensure long-term fiscal management with effective asset management, our decisions to manage our growth includes the service delivery associated with an asset. In this regard, with any amendment considered to the OCP, the Financial Plan must also be considered; any bylaws enacted or works undertaken by Council after the adoption of an OCP must also be consistent with the plan. A number of works and bylaws have been enacted since Council's approval of the plan, and the OCP Monitoring Report identifies our progress towards the community's land use goals.

OCP 5 Year Monitoring Report

The OCP Monitoring Report 2011-2016 (attached), presents the first 5-year snapshot of progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the OCP. The Monitoring Report is based on indicators which reflect achievement of OCP goals and objectives. Indicators selected needed to meet 3 key criteria; the data was from a reliable source and was readily available, the data was collected on a regular basis, and the data reflected the City's progress towards achieving a goal or objective of the OCP. Data collected in each indicator aims to identify if the indicator is showing performance in the right direction, or wrong direction, or if the difference is minimal. Much of the data collected for this report was collected for the first time. In some cases, rather than showing progression, this data may appear as a snapshot to how we were doing at the time the data was made available, in order to provide a baseline as we continue to monitor our progress over the years.

The OCP Monitoring Report was developed throughout 2017 by the Sustainable Community Development division. The development of indicators, collection of data, as well as interpretation of analysis involved various other city divisions from across numerous departments.

The following OCP indicators are reported in the OCP Monitoring Report, 2011–2016. The indicators are focused on 8 topic areas: downtown revitalization, economy and employment, environment, social development, growth management, housing, transportation, and urban design and structure.

1. Downtown Revitalization
 - 1.1 Construction Value of Downtown Office Development;
 - 1.2 Construction Value of Downtown Retail, Restaurants and Services;
2. Economy and Employment
 - 2.1 Inventory of Light Industrial Land;
 - 2.2 Inventory of Heavy Industrial Land;
 - 2.3 Employment and Gross Domestic Product by Industry Sector;
 - 2.4 Number of New Business Licenses;

3. Environment
 - 3.1 Amount of environmentally sensitive land;
 - 3.2 Solid Waste and Recycling;
 - 3.3 Air Quality;
 - 3.4 Water Consumption;
4. Social Development & Quality of Life
 - 4.1 Participation in Leisure Access Program and Aquatics;
 - 4.2 Access to Greenspace;
 - 4.3 Farmer's Market Nutrition Coupon Program;
 - 4.4 Number of Heritage Register Properties;
5. Growth Management
 - 5.1 Number of New Residential Units in Infill and Growth Priority Areas;
 - 5.2 Gains and losses in Land Designated Rural;
 - 5.3 Gains and losses in Land Designated Light Industrial;
 - 5.4 Gains and losses in Land Designated Service Commercial;
6. Housing
 - 6.1 Number of New Residential Units by Housing Type;
 - 6.2 Number of Permitted Secondary Suites;
 - 6.3 Number of New Narrow Lot Houses;
 - 6.4 New Viable and Adaptable Units;
 - 6.5 Housing Affordability Index;
7. Transportation
 - 7.1 Capital Investment to Transportation Infrastructure;
 - 7.2 Number of Transit Rides;
 - 7.3 Location of Transit Stops;
 - 7.4 Crashes involving Pedestrians;
8. Urban Design & Structure
 - 8.1 Scores from the City's Advisory Committee on Development Design;

Part D: Implementation of the OCP was also reported on. This section of the OCP details measures to be taken in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the OCP, including bylaws to review or develop, policies to consider, and capital projects to complete.

9. Implementation of the OCP
 - 9.1 Review of overall implementation of the OCP; and,
 - 9.2 Capital projects identified within the OCP.

Ensuring the successful implementation of the OCP requires a commitment that extends beyond the date of adoption. The OCP Monitoring Report, 2011–2016 represents the City's first iteration of monitoring the OCP. This type of reporting can provide an indication of land use trends in our city, of changing policy and opinion or can identify policy direction to be clarified or reviewed.

IMPLEMENTATION TO-DATE HIGHLIGHTS:

Nearly 50% of implementation items identified within the OCP are completed or underway in some form, highlights of completed projects include:

- 2015 Canada Winter Games delivery and sustainability strategy
- Support to develop the Wood Innovation and Design Centre, Wood First Policy
- Community Services Master Plan (Parks Strategy, Aquatic Needs Assessment)
- Fire Master Plan, Fire Underwriters Study and Standards of Response Coverage Study
- Downtown building façade improvement grants
- Multi-Family Incentive Program

A number of Capital projects have also been completed, highlights include:

- The construction of Boundary Road, servicing and bike lanes
- Various water, sanitary and storm projects
- Airport Light Industrial Lands Storm Detention Pond
- Upgrade to lift station PW120 on Weisbrod Road
- The UNBC connector trail, joining Ginters Meadow to the existing trail system
- Dedicated Bike Lanes on Arterial Roads

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

This report works to measure our OCP progress 5 years into the 15 year plan to achieve objectives the City set out to accomplish to achieve the community's land use vision. The assessment allows the City to prioritize next steps for OCP Implementation.

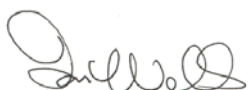
This 5-year report suggests that the City is moving towards achieving many of the goals and objectives identified in the OCP. Of the 28 indicators that were analyzed, 17 are performing in the right direction, 3 are performing in the wrong direction, 4 have minimal difference and 4 do not have enough information to identify a trend.

The following list identifies some key trends which emerged through the creation of the OCP monitoring report. Further information on these trends can be found in the OCP Monitoring Report 2011-2016 which is attached to this report for Council's convenience.

- Prince George has diversified its economic drivers beyond primary industries (Indicator 2.3).
- Households have continuously increased the amount of garbage they produce (Indicator 3.2).
- Residential water users consume 78% of the total water consumed in the City – using more than industrial, commercial and institutional users combined (Indicator 3.4).
- The majority of Prince George residents (89%) reside within 400 m of a Park or Green Space (Indicator 4.3).
- The majority (87%) of new residential units constructed were located within a growth priority or infill area (Indicator 5.1).
- Amendments to the OCP resulted in significant gains to lands designated for light industrial uses and losses to lands designated for rural uses. (Indicators 5.2 and 5.3).
- The development of new housing has increased in a variety of forms including secondary suites, narrow lot homes and multi-family housing options (Indicators 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3).
- Prince George continues to be an affordable place for home ownership (Indicator 6.5).
- The City invests more in road networks for vehicles than for active transportation networks by a ratio of 7:1 (Indicator 7.1).
- Nearly 50% of implementation items identified in Part D of the OCP are underway in some form (e.g. in the design stage, in progress or completed) (Indicator 9.1 and 9.2).

This is the first 5-year review of the City of Prince George Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 8383, 2011. This data will assist in providing a baseline for further 5-year reviews of the OCP. This report informs the prioritization of next steps, of which many implementation items are underway to come forward under separate cover (bylaws, procedures, capital works, etc.).

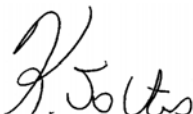
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Ian Wells
General Manager of Planning and Development

REPORT PREPARED BY: Sustainable Community Development Division

APPROVED:



Kathleen Soltis, City Manager
Meeting date: January 22, 2018