

Information Report



Service Areas

Corporate Services

Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services

Public Services

Date

Friday, September 11, 2020

Subject

Planning for our Future: Guelph's Master Plans Update

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with the 2020 Q3 quarterly progress report for City of Guelph master plans.

Key Findings

Master plans are within budget and scope as well as on schedule unless otherwise stated.

Financial Implications

If applicable, financial implications will be referenced in each plan's attached progress summary.

Report

Details

City staff are planning Guelph's future, today. This year, more than nine master plans are underway or planned across several City departments. Staff sees this as an opportunity for unprecedented alignment and coordination of strategy and policy development, and for resourcing the needs of our growing city.

A number of the master plan updates support the City in meeting Guelph's provincially-legislated growth plan requirements, guide service delivery to a growing city, and/or will inform policies in Guelph's Official Plan update.

As part of the City's ongoing coordination efforts, regular updates on these master plans are provided through quarterly information reports. This is an enhancement to existing communications with more frequent updates and the consolidation of individual information reports. These information reports do not replace staff reports that require Council direction on individual plans.

Staff has continued master plan work through Guelph's declared emergency in response to COVID-19 and the associated challenges related to a reduction in staff

compliment, temporary reprioritization of departmental work plans and the corporate-wide pause in community engagement that just recently ended.

As timing for reopening City facilities, engaging community stakeholders in master planning conversations, and recalling staff on declared emergency leave evolved, staff leading master plans continue working on contingency plans to ensure legislated timelines are met and exploring new processes including virtual opportunities to re-engage the community. These challenges have already, or may in the future, influence timelines; sequencing; budgets; and scope and scale of engagement. Staff will work to mitigate the impacts of these variables on their respective master plans and pursue innovative practices and approaches in the process.

In June, the province released proposed amendment 1 to the Growth Plan that included population and employment forecasts to 2051. [Staff provided comments](#) on these changes in July (circulated as an information item in August), led by Planning and Building Services in consultation with numerous City departments. These comments identified concerns or unknowns associated with water supply, servicing and more. On August 28th, the province announced that amendment 1 is in effect. This includes planning for a forecast population of 203,000 and employment of 116,000 for Guelph to 2051. These Growth Plan changes will influence several of the master plans in development, which may impact both scope and budget of these plans. Details to be provided in subsequent updates or through future staff reports.

Financial Implications

If applicable, financial implications to the approved budgets will be referenced in each plan's attached progress summary.

Consultations

Each master plan has an associated community engagement plan and communications plan that are being updated as needed to accommodate COVID-19 realities. Where possible, engagement and communications tactics are being coordinated to maximize community participation in master plan engagement activities, reduce engagement fatigue, and increase awareness of the interconnected nature of the City's master plans.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Regular public updates on the progress of the City's master plans is a tactic designed to improve communication, which directly supports the working together for our future priority of the City's Strategic Plan.

Several master plan leads are also meeting regularly, as a community of practice, to look for opportunities to work together in new ways for greater coordination and continuous improvement.

Attachments

Attachment-1: Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Guelph Trail Master Plan progress summary

Attachment-2: Solid Waste Management Master Plan progress summary

Attachment-3: Stormwater Management Master Plan progress summary

Attachment-4: Digital and Technology Master Plan progress summary

Attachment-5: Transportation Master Plan progress summary

Attachment-6: Urban Forest Master Plan progress summary

Attachment-7: Wastewater Treatment and Biosolids Master Plan update progress summary

Attachment-8: Water and Wastewater Servicing Master Plan update progress summary

Attachment-9: Water Supply Master Plan update progress summary

Departmental Approval

The following staff contributed the progress summaries for the master plans within this report.

- Arun Hindupur, Supervisor, Infrastructure Engineering
- Dave Belanger, Water Supply Program Manager, Water Services
- Gene Matthews, Manager, Parks Operations and Forestry
- Phil Jensen, Project Specialist, Solid Waste Resources
- Tiffany Hanna, Park Planner, Open Space Planning
- Mari MacNeil, Technical Services Manager, Wastewater Services
- Sasha Einwechter, General Manager, Information and Technology
- Scott Cousins, Hydrogeologist, Water Services
- Terry Gayman, General Manager, Engineering and Transportation Services
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