

NO: R261

COUNCIL DATE: **December 5, 2016**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **November 23, 2016**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning & Development
Manager, Sustainability** FILE: **0512-02**

SUBJECT: **Application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for
Green Municipal Funds – Newton Sustainability in Action Plan**

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning & Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Approve staff proceeding with actions toward development of a Newton Sustainability in Action Plan, as generally described in this report;
3. Approve an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for funding in the amount of \$40,000.00 from the Green Municipal Fund to support the preparation of the Newton Sustainability in Action Plan; and
4. Adopt the following resolution in support of that application:

“Be it therefore resolved that the City of Surrey develop a sustainable neighbourhood action plan that will include sustainability goals, specific targets, actions, and an implementation and monitoring strategy.

Be it further resolved that the City of Surrey commit \$40,000.00 from its budget, and in-kind contributions valued at \$7,400.00, toward the costs of this initiative.”

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the preparation of a Newton Sustainability in Action Plan, and Council endorsement of an application by the City for funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Green Municipal Fund.

BACKGROUND

On May 30, 2016, Council received Corporate Report No. R112; 2016 titled "Sustainability Charter 2.0 for a Thriving, Green, Inclusive City" and approved the updated Sustainability Charter 2.0 as the overarching policy document for the City. Organized into eight interconnected themes,

the new Charter includes a refreshed long-term vision of a thriving, green, inclusive city, as well as more ambitious goals and desired outcomes for the community.

DISCUSSION

The Green Municipal Fund (GMF) finances municipal plans that support sustainable community development, including sustainable neighbourhood action plans. A sustainable neighbourhood action plan is meant to build on an existing municipal sustainable community plan or strategy, such as an integrated community sustainability plan (ICSP), or official municipal plan that includes sustainability goals. To be eligible for GMF funding, a sustainable neighbourhood action plan must include the following elements:

- A vision, as well as environmental, social, and economic goals and targets. These may be drawn from the existing municipal sustainable community plan.
- Actions to achieve the goals and targets in all areas of municipal activity, including:
 - energy, waste and water management;
 - sustainable transportation;
 - land use; and
 - brownfield remediation (if applicable).

The actions must identify specific tasks, with details on who will accomplish them, a timeline for implementation, and estimated costs. A sustainable neighbourhood action plan may target a specific area within municipal borders, or apply to an entire municipality. The City intends to apply to the GMF to support a sustainable neighbourhood action plan in Newton.

The development of the “Newton Sustainability in Action Plan” will provide an opportunity to work closely with a neighbourhood and its residents to develop an action plan that will implement the Charter on the ground, at a local level. The Plan will engage the Newton community in identifying the Sustainability Charter 2.0 desired outcomes and strategic directions that they feel are most important for their neighbourhood, and then building a detailed action plan on how to achieve those goals. The purpose of this initiative is to engage the community in identifying actions that can be undertaken by community partners as well as individuals. Beyond creating an action plan, this process will also create an engaged and educated population around sustainability, and help the community to incorporate sustainability planning in all of their initiatives.

The planning process will address some of the unique sustainability-related challenges and opportunities for Newton, including:

- Future light rail plans along King George Boulevard to Newton, and the influence of transit on this neighbourhood as it evolves.
- A neighbourhood that is suburban in nature and organized around the car, but with opportunity for sensitive infill and densification over time, as well as place-making activities to make it more conducive to walking.

- Water and energy cost savings that will resonate in an area where median household income was about \$60,000.00 annually in 2011.
- Highly active community organizations and individuals that are passionate and have some understanding about sustainability issues, and are seeking greater engagement with the City.

The Newton Sustainability in Action Plan will also complement the City's Official Community Plan (OCP) and the Community Climate Action Strategy. The Sustainability Charter's desired outcome statements and the OCP's objectives and policies will form the basis for actions more specific to the Newton neighbourhood. Similarly, the policies and actions from the Community Climate Action Strategy will be used to inform the actions in Newton. Other City plans and strategies will also be referenced, including the draft Newton Town Centre Plan update, the Strategic Transportation Plan, and the Walking and Cycling Plans. The geographic overlap between this initiative and EcoNewton (which focuses on the light industrial West Newton area) will be limited, but EcoNewton businesses may be able to provide goods and services linked to community solutions, for example energy efficiency products.

The Newton Sustainability in Action Plan will be developed through collaboration between the City of Surrey, Village Surrey, the Newton Business Improvement Association, other community organizations, and neighbourhood residents. Initial outreach to some of these organizations and individuals has been very positive. The specific boundaries of the defined "neighbourhood" in this planning process will be determined in conjunction with these partners.

The Newton project will be led by the Sustainability Office, with additional staff support from the City's neighbourhood enhancement and engagement team. Linkages will be made with other Planning & Development Department staff (Community Planning and Social Planning), Engineering Department staff (Transportation, Water, and Waste issues), Economic Development staff, and the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, including Healthy Communities; the Neighbourhood Enhancement and Engagement team; and Parks Operations staff, as actions relate to landscape, tree canopy, and the City's Partners in Parks program.

Regular updates will be provided to the General Managers, Planning & Development, Parks, Recreation & Culture, and Engineering. Updates on the planning process will also be provided to Mayor and Council, the Senior Management Team, and to relevant City Advisory Committees, such as the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee.

In tandem with pursuing the GMF for this Newton planning process, City staff is exploring the establishment of a Sustainability Implementation Fund as a small grant fund to support community implementation of sustainability. Ultimately, this Fund could provide a vehicle to support small-scale projects arising from the Newton Sustainability in Action Plan. More information on this Fund proposal will come to Council for consideration in 2017.

Following completion of the pilot planning process in Newton, staff will evaluate the application of this neighbourhood sustainability planning model to other areas in Surrey.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Newton Sustainability in Action Plan will pilot the identification of local actions to achieve the Sustainability Charter 2.0 goals and desired outcomes. In doing so, the project will help to achieve the following Charter desired outcomes (DO):

- Inclusion
 - DO 21: All residents have opportunities to be meaningfully engaged in civic issues and to contribute to community life.
- Built Environment & Neighbourhoods
 - DO 1: Surrey is comprised of distinct, diverse and compact neighbourhoods and Town Centres, with an engaging public realm.
 - DO 4: Surrey's neighbourhoods are safe, accessible, well connected, walkable and bike friendly.
- Public Safety
 - DO 4: Local residents and businesses are connected and engaged with their neighbourhoods and with the broader community to enhance safety.
- Health & Wellness
 - DO 8: Residents feel a sense of belonging and connectedness, and have opportunities for social interaction in their neighbourhoods and community.
- Infrastructure
 - DO 7: Per capita emissions are low, and align with global, national and provincial GHG reduction targets.
 - DO 15: All water is used efficiently and per capita water use is decreasing year over year.

CONCLUSION

The Newton Sustainability in Action Plan will be the first time that a collaborative plan focused on sustainability has been developed in the City. The process will allow local-level implementation of the Sustainability Charter 2.0 goals and desired outcomes, and allow better community involvement in achieving the Charter's vision of a thriving, green, inclusive city.

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Approve staff proceeding with actions toward development of a Newton Sustainability in Action plan, as generally described in this report;
3. Approve an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for funding in the amount of \$40,000.00 from the Green Municipal Fund to support the preparation of the Newton Sustainability in Action Plan; and

4. Adopt the following resolution in support of that application:

“Be it therefore resolved that the City of Surrey develop a sustainable neighbourhood action plan that will include sustainability goals, specific targets, actions, and an implementation and monitoring strategy.

Be it further resolved that the City of Surrey commit \$40,000.00 from its budget, and in-kind contributions valued at \$7,400.00, toward the costs of this initiative.”

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning & Development

Original signed by
Anna Mathewson, MCIP, RPP
Manager, Sustainability

AM/ss