

NO: R033

COUNCIL DATE: February 19, 2018

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **February 15, 2018**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
Manager, Sustainability** FILE: **0512-02**

SUBJECT: **Sustainability Charter 2.0 Implementation Update**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council receive this Report for information.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the implementation of the Surrey Sustainability Charter 2.0.

## BACKGROUND

On September 29, 2008, Council received Corporate Report No. R175; 2008, titled "Surrey Sustainability Charter" and approved the Sustainability Charter (the "Charter") as the overarching policy document for the City providing a comprehensive lens to guide City initiatives, programs and plans. The Charter defined sustainability as: "*Meeting the needs of the present generation in terms of the socio-cultural systems, the economy and the environment, while promoting a high quality of life but without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*".

On February 24, 2014, Council received Corporate Report No. R022; 2014 titled "Sustainability Charter Update", and approved plans to update the Sustainability Charter to ensure that the City maintained a leadership position in the area of sustainability.

On May 30, 2016, Council received Corporate Report No. R112; 2016, titled "Sustainability Charter 2.0 for A Thriving, Green, Inclusive City", approved the updated Charter, and directed staff to complete the implementation items outlined in the report. The Sustainability Charter 2.0 is a high level policy document that includes a refined vision statement; taken from the new Official Community Plan, the vision of a sustainable and resilient Surrey looking ahead to the next 40 years is **a thriving, green, inclusive city**. While the three pillars of sustainability remain at the heart of the Charter – with a focus on balanced decision making and a view to future generations – the updated Charter is organized around eight overlapping community systems or themes:

- **Built Environment and Neighbourhoods:** The connectivity, accessibility and resilience of our neighbourhoods, buildings, and sites.

- **Inclusion:** The social and economic inclusion of all people regardless of ability or circumstances.
- **Health and Wellness:** The health and wellness of residents through health services and programs, access to recreation, and food accessibility.
- **Public Safety:** A safe and engaging community through community safety and emergency services, emergency preparedness and prevention, and transportation safety.
- **Economic Prosperity and Livelihoods:** A strong local economy focused on jobs and skills training, economic diversity, and innovation.
- **Ecosystems:** The health and protection of Surrey's natural areas, biodiversity and urban forest as well as water and air quality and green infrastructure.
- **Infrastructure:** The provision of effective infrastructure and services, focused on energy and climate, transportation, water, materials and waste, and telecommunications.
- **Education and Culture:** The access of all residents to high quality learning opportunities and vibrant arts and heritage experiences.

Each theme has an overall goal followed by desired outcomes. The "goals" are long-term goals, and the "desired outcomes" outline **what** the City wants to see in these areas, looking ahead to the year 2058. "Strategic directions" then identify **how** the City and its partners will move towards the desired outcomes over the shorter term. Updated indicators and targets are presented under each theme. More granular plans, such as the City's Poverty Reduction Plan and Transportation Strategic Plan, provide detailed actions for implementation that align with the Charter outcomes.

In addition to making progress on sustainability outcomes at a community level, the City itself has made great strides in integrating sustainability into its corporate decisions, projects and plans. The Sustainability Charter 2.0 identifies several corporate sustainability objectives and strategies, including around purchasing and waste diversion.

## DISCUSSION

Implementation of the Sustainability Charter 2.0 has been proceeding since May 2016. An update is provided below on specific implementation tasks:

### Staff Engagement and Training

City staff awareness and training on the updated Sustainability Charter was completed in 2017 as part of the City Essentials mandatory training for all staff. These workshops featured the Sustainability Charter 2.0, including an overview of the Charter's vision and themes, and allowed opportunity for discussion on how all staff contribute to that vision. The workshops shared a background video on what sustainability means in Surrey:

<http://www.surrey.ca/community/3146.aspx>.

### Dashboard Update

The Sustainability Dashboard ([www.surrey.ca/dashboard](http://www.surrey.ca/dashboard)) has been in place since 2012 and is the visual tool for displaying the City's broad sustainability indicators and targets. The Dashboard has now been updated to reflect the Charter 2.0 themes and updated indicators and targets. Early in 2018, an update began to integrate 2016 and 2017 data for all metrics.

## **Sustainability Implementation Fund**

Sustainability and Finance Department staff continue to explore a Sustainability Charter Implementation Fund that would provide small grants to the community and support neighbourhood-level implementation of sustainability and climate change objectives. This Fund would also align with existing community grant programs offered by the City, including for Neighbourhood Enhancement. In 2016, a team from the City's Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) undertook research and community consultations on the scope and elements of the proposed Sustainability Implementation Fund. This research is being integrated into a Sustainability Implementation Fund proposal, which will be brought to Council for consideration later in 2018.

## **Communication Materials**

A short, plain language summary of the Charter was developed in brochure format to provide, at a quick glance, a sense of the Charter vision and outcomes. The City sustainability website also continues to provide useful background and updates on all progress, and a quarterly e-newsletter on sustainability has a reach of over 2,000 residents and stakeholders. Sustainability "stories" are currently being developed that will share how internal (City staff) and external (key partner) stakeholders view the Charter and use it to guide their own work.

## **Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (Newton Sustainability in Action)**

To move forward on neighbourhood or district-level realization of broad sustainability outcomes, the City applied to, and received funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund for the preparation of a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP), using Newton as a pilot community. The "Newton Sustainability in Action" plan (the "Project") is a neighbourhood-wide Project to engage residents in identifying ways to make Newton a more thriving, green and inclusive community.

The Project kicked off in July 2017 with a visioning session and the establishment of a steering committee with representation from the Newton BIA, DiverseCity, Fraser Health, KPU, Friends of The Grove, and other partners. The second phase led to the creation of desired outcomes for Newton - building on those from the Sustainability Charter 2.0 - and a Neighbourhood Profile and SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis have been completed. The Project is currently moving into an action planning phase over the spring with stakeholders, with a final plan expected by Spring 2018 for Council approval.

## **Planning Institute of BC (PIBC) Planning Award 2017**

In 2017, the updated Sustainability Charter received a Silver Award from the Planning Institute of BC for Excellence in Policy Planning, in the City & Urban Areas category. In a competitive field of submissions, the Charter was highlighted as a "great example for the planning profession".

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The Sustainability Charter 2.0 provides an effective high level policy document that guides the community and the City.

## CONCLUSION

The Sustainability Charter 2.0 is the overarching policy document for Surrey, providing a comprehensive lens to guide all initiatives, programs and plans. Since its approval in 2016, a number of implementation projects have been moved forward to deliver on the outcomes. It is recommended that Council receive this Report for information.

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