



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: February 9, 2022

Report Number: SRPI.22.012

Department: Planning and Infrastructure

Division: Policy Planning

Subject: **SRPI.22.012 - Request for Endorsement: Official Plan Update Key Directions Report - Supplementary to SRPI.21.118**

Purpose:

The purpose of this staff report is to supplement Staff Report SRPI.21.118, which seeks Council endorsement of the Key Directions Report for the Official Plan Update. Both the staff report and its attachments are provided in Attachment 1 of this report.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That Staff Report SRPI.22.012 be received.

Contact Person:

Sybelle von Kursell, Manager, Policy Planning, 907-771-2472

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure

Approved by: Mary-Anne Dempster, City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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Background:

At the December 8, 2021 Council meeting, Council considered staff report SRPI.21.118 wherein staff recommended that Council endorse the attached Key Directions Report. The Key Directions Report provides a comprehensive set of directions for how and in what ways the Official Plan (OP) should be updated to meet Provincial, Regional and Local expectations. It provides a critical path forward in the City's OP Update process and collectively highlights the total scope of work that is required to complete the update of the City's OP.

During the meeting, Council heard from four delegations and received four pieces of correspondence. Following the delegations, Council resolved to refer this report to the February 9, 2022 Council meeting. This referral provides an opportunity for the newly elected Mayor of Richmond Hill to consider the Key Directions Report and provides members of Council the opportunity, during the intervening period, to further consult with the public prior to making a final decision to endorse the Key Directions Report.

To assist with consultation in relation to the Key Directions, City staff have since updated the Official Plan Update webpage to notify the public that additional comments can be provided to staff and the Clerk's office prior to this Council meeting.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

This report has no financial or staffing implications.

Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities 2020-2022:

Endorsement of the Key Directions Report directly responds to and aligns with all four of Council's Strategic Priority areas. These directions seek to:

- promote intensification in transit supported areas along with the protection of greenspace and natural heritage to balance growth and green;
- continue to advance the City's Official Plan as a guide for placemaking so as to create a strong sense of belonging;
- promote a mobility hierarchy that prioritizes active modes of travel to improve how we get around in the City;
- promote economic investment, through the attraction and retention of businesses, jobs, and talent; and through the effective and efficient use of public infrastructure to maintain the City's financial health.

Climate Change Considerations:

Endorsement of the Key Directions Report strongly considers climate change. In developing the proposed Key Directions, staff paid particular attention to the City's Community Energy and Emissions Plan Green House Gas (GHG) reduction recommended actions related to: natural heritage; compact community development; renewable energy; efficient buildings; and transportation transformation. Accordingly,

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many of the proposed key directions identify means in which the Official Plan could be updated to enable or require development that mitigates and/or adapts to change in climate.

Next Steps:

As noted in Section 3.0 of the Key Directions Report, amendments to the Official Plan are proposed to be brought to Council in three or more batches, starting in July 2022, when the Regional Official Plan is anticipated to be adopted by the Region. Subsequent amendments are anticipated to be brought to Council in early 2023 (following Provincial approval of the Regional Official Plan) and late 2023 when consultation on the balance of amendments has concluded.

Prior to recommending adoption of amendments, staff will ensure that there is public and stakeholder engagement to inform proposed policy and/or mapping changes. Staff will report back to Council on these matters as they come forward.

In the section of the Key Directions Report titled “References”, there are several City initiatives that have informed the key directions. These initiatives include: the Affordable Housing Strategy; the Transportation Master Plan Update; the Environment Strategy Update; the Parks Plan and the Recreation and Culture Plan Updates; and the Comprehensive Zoning By-law. While some of these initiatives are complete and/or approved by Council, others are still in process. While the Official Plan update process continues, staff will continue to work to ensure that these ongoing initiatives are aligned. By doing so, we establish common goals, and achieve efficiencies in terms of time and resources.

Conclusion:

The Key Directions Report forms the foundation for future amendments to the OP, and has been shared with stakeholders and the public to provide clarity on the total scope of work that is proposed in order to complete the update of the Official Plan. Accordingly, this staff report seeks Council endorsement of the Key Directions Report set out in Attachment 1 to SRPI.21.118 to guide the next phase of the City’s Official Plan update process.

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPI.22.012 - Request for Endorsement: Official Plan Update Key Directions Report - Supplementary to SRPI.21.118.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jan 21, 2022

This report were approved and signed as outlined below:

Patrick Lee - Jan 20, 2022 - 10:25 AM

Kelvin Kwan - Jan 20, 2022 - 12:04 PM

MaryAnne Dempster - Jan 21, 2022 - 4:03 PM