

Report to Council



Date: April 9, 2018

1200-31 1200-31

To: City Manager

From: Danielle Noble-Brandt, Policy & Planning Department Manager

Subject: 2040 OCP Facts in Focus – Agriculture & Rural Areas, Natural Environment and A Changing Climate

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Policy & Planning Department Manager dated April 9, 2018, with respect to the 2040 OCP Facts in Focus – Agriculture & Rural Areas, Natural Environment and A Changing Climate.

Purpose:

To proceed with Part 3 of the Facts in Focus series as it relates to topic-based background papers on the 2040 OCP update. The third installment of the Facts in Focus topics being introduced are Agriculture & Rural Areas, Natural Environment and A Changing Climate.

Background:

The public launch of the 2040 OCP Update commenced in February 2018 and this OCP update is an opportunity to harness the community's vision and shape the growth of Kelowna over a 20-year time horizon. In preparation for the first phase of public engagement on growth scenarios, Policy and Planning have developed eight Facts in Focus papers to promote a broad understanding of the key issues and opportunities of the core OCP topic areas.

On March 12th, 2018 Policy and Planning launched the Facts in Focus papers through a Council presentation on the Purpose of the OCP as well as Population and Housing. On March 19th, 2018 Policy and Planning presented the second installment of the Facts in Focus papers including Building Complete Communities and Transportation.

This Council Report highlights three Facts in Focus papers:

- 1) **Agriculture & Rural Areas** – Farming is an essential element of Kelowna's history and identity. A significant portion of the City's land base is agriculture. Similarly, Kelowna's rural lands contain some of the rarest ecosystems in the province. Together, these lands present both a

gift and a responsibility to support and protect (refer to Attachment 1: Facts in Focus – Agriculture and Rural Lands).

- 2) **Natural Environment** – Kelowna’s natural environment, including Okanagan Lake, mountains and streams, distinguishes it as one of the best places to live. There is an urgency to protect remaining natural ecosystems and wildlife habitats to protect species and our natural capital. The green infrastructure functions that the natural environment performs are critical natural assets that promote climate change resiliency for our community (refer to Attachment 2: Facts in Focus – Natural Environment).
- 3) **A Changing Climate** – Locally, Kelowna experienced one of its most extreme weather years on record in 2017 with historic flooding followed by fires and drought. Moving towards a low carbon future is a challenge, yet planning for a healthy and resilient community through focusing growth in the Urban Core and prioritizing sustainable transportation options, is an enormous opportunity (refer to Attachment 3: Facts in Focus – A Changing Climate).

Within the next month, Policy and Planning will present the final Facts in Focus topic paper titled ‘Servicing the Plan’, which is a high level overview of notable considerations of financing and infrastructure servicing of a growth scenario. The complete Facts in Focus series aims to create a baseline knowledge of current policy direction, areas of challenge and future opportunities.

Submitted by:

Danielle Noble-Brandt, Policy & Planning Department Manager

Approved for inclusion:



Doug Gilchrist, CP & SI Divisional Director

Attachments:

- 1) Facts in Focus – Agriculture and Rural Lands
- 2) Facts in Focus – Natural Environment
- 3) Facts in Focus – A Changing Climate

cc:

Divisional Director, Community Planning & Strategic Investments
Divisional Director, Infrastructure
Divisional Director, Human Resources
Divisional Director, Financial Services
Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services
Divisional Director, Corporate and Protective Services
Divisional Director, Active Living and Culture
Director, Strategic Investments
Department Manager, Integrated Transportation
Infrastructure Engineering Manager
Community Planning Department Manager
Communications Advisor