

# Report to Council



**Date:** September 19, 2016  
**File:** 1200-40  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** G. March, Planner Specialist  
**Subject:** Official Community Plan Annual Indicators Report 2016

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives for information the report from the Planner Specialist, dated September 19, 2016 with respect to the Official Community Plan Annual Indicators Report 2016.

## **Purpose:**

To assess progress towards achieving the objectives of the Official Community Plan. This is the fifth Official Community Plan Indicators report, containing a baseline as well as four successive years' worth of data, where data is available.

## **Background:**

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is our shared vision for Kelowna as a sustainable city over the next 20 years. It illustrates how we want to grow and what we want our city to be like. Importantly, it outlines what our city needs to be successful in the future – a great place to live, work and play. To achieve this, the OCP sets goals, objectives and policies to guide our growth and change. The plan was developed with significant public involvement and responds to the community's vision for a livable and thriving community.

According to community input into the Official Community Plan (OCP) 2010 - 2030, residents want a city where:

- Urban communities are compact and walkable;
- Housing is available and affordable for all residents;
- People feel safe downtown and in their own neighbourhoods;
- The natural environment (land and water) is protected and preserved;
- Walking paths and bicycle routes connect to key destinations;
- The economy is growing, vibrant and bringing in new businesses;

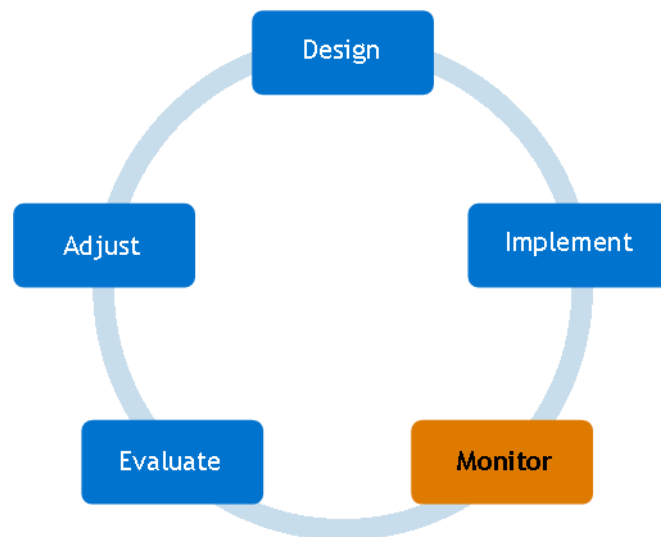
- Buildings and public spaces are attractive places; and,
- Recreation and cultural opportunities are plentiful.

Becoming a sustainable city requires a balance between environmental protection, economic growth, social development and cultural vibrancy. The OCP considers all aspects of our community, such as housing, land use, transportation, infrastructure, parks, economic development and the natural and social environments around us.

As a guiding document, the OCP is used by Council and staff to take action towards making the community's vision a reality. For instance, the OCP guides long-term civic infrastructure investment and helps to prioritize the use of limited resources. The OCP is also used by the development community, businesses and the public for a range of purposes such as determining which areas are suitable for development or what changes could occur at a neighbourhood level.

Ensuring the successful implementation of the OCP requires a commitment that extends well beyond the date of adoption. A robust monitoring and evaluation program is a central part of this effort and is vital in equipping staff and elected officials with the information needed to respond to the evolving context of the community and to determine whether OCP objectives are being achieved (see Figure 1). The *OCP Indicators Report* represents the City's principal effort in this area, using metrics that have been established and measured at regular intervals to quantify progress. Measuring progress will provide information on where changes may need to be considered for goals to be achieved. Alternatively, should it be decided that goals are no longer relevant, the goals themselves can be changed. In either situation, the objective is to align the City's and community's efforts with community goals. Page 3 of the annual indicators report (Attachment 1) outlines the OCP evaluation process and how the monitoring component fits within the larger framework.

**Figure 1: The Planning Cycle**



The intent of the *OCP Indicators Report* is to produce a snapshot report on an annual basis providing data relative to previous years. The OCP is a living document and data from these reports is used to support OCP amends on an ongoing basis. On a larger scale, the data from the indictors reports will be fundamental to informing any potential changes as part of the upcoming OCP Update process.

June 2012 was the first year that the OCP was measured and summarized in a report based on adherence to goals and objectives. Where data was available, a baseline was established and one subsequent year was measured. The 2012 report provided the reference point and basis to begin to establish trends moving forward.

This year's report builds on the previous reports and contains all data and results from the five years the OCP indicators were assessed. In the majority of cases, five years' worth of data is now available. However, it should be noted that five years' worth of data does not necessarily result in a trend. Anomalies may be present when considering the host of external factors that can influence the formation of a trend.

### **Discussion:**

Developing performance indicators is a challenging task. No one indicator will provide a complete picture of a given issue, and measuring too many indicators can be a significant burden that adds little value. The OCP Indicators Report recognizes this and attempts to strike a balance where indicators are selected and used to identify where additional investigation may be needed at a more detailed level.

Overall, this year's report (Attachment 1) suggests that the City is moving towards achieving OCP goals. Of the 25 indicators, 15 are trending in a positive direction, 3 are trending in a negative direction, 4 saw minimal change from previous years, and 3 do not yet have enough data to determine a trend. Of the 3 without enough data, 1 will be updated at the next Census, and 2 will have data available in next year's report.

Highlights from the indicators include:

- The percentage of new residential units that are multi-family continued to improve for the fifth consecutive year.
- 2015 continued to see more residential building permits issues for the Urban Core than 2011 and 2012, overall indicating a positive trend in this central location.
- The vacancy rate has remained below three per cent for the last 3 years, creating a constrained rental market. The City acknowledges the challenges from the low vacancy rate and in response has multiple incentives in place to encourage development of rental housing including, tax incentives, micro-suite incentives and rental housing grants.
- In terms of safety, the mid-year estimate suggests that the crime rate has seen minimal change since the baseline year of 2011.
- Local wages are keeping pace with provincial benchmarks.
- The number of businesses with employees continues to increase which reflects a healthy climate for investment and a sense of optimism from business owners.
- The percentage of parks and transportation dollars spent in the urban core decreased in 2015 but the overall trend supports the OCP objectives of increasing private investment in the central part of the city. Since the baseline year, almost 69 per cent of parks and transportation dollars have been spent in the urban core.
- Average household electricity and gas consumption continues to decrease.
- The percentage of land protected as park continues to increase each of the last 4 years towards the target.

The effectiveness of OCP implementation is measured by indicator performance. Having 19 of the indicators (76 per cent) either performing in a positive direction, or remaining consistent, suggests that the intent of the OCP is being implemented and that the policies are resulting in a positive performance. This year's result is an increase over the previous year where 72 per cent of indicators were performing in either a positive direction or remained consistent.

The plan is to continue to monitor the indicators on an annual basis, and make amendments to the OCP, on an ongoing basis, as necessary. The indicators themselves will be looked at as part of the OCP update process and will be amended depending on the outcome of the OCP Update.

#### **Internal Circulation:**

Divisional Director, Community Planning and Real Estate  
Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture  
Director, Regional Services  
Director, Real Estate Services  
Manager, Parks & Building Planning  
Department Manager, Community Planning  
Manager, Transportation & Mobility  
Crime Prevention Supervisor, Police Services  
Manager, Cultural Services  
Communications Supervisor, Communications

#### **Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

Staff will monitor the indicators annually, and if trends are not moving in the desired direction, staff will then return with suggestions for how favourable changes may be achieved. Where there are personnel or budgetary implications, such would be identified at that time.

A complete OCP review, at the appropriate time, will be considered for funding through the normal budgeting process.

#### **Considerations not applicable to this report:**

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

**Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:**

**Existing Policy:**

**Personnel Implications:**

**External Agency/Public Comments:**

**Communications Comments:**

**Alternate Recommendation:**

Submitted by:

G. March, Planner Specialist

**Approved for inclusion:**

J. Moore, Long Range Policy Planning Manager



Attachment: Official Community Plan Indicators Report 2015

cc:

Divisional Director, Community Planning and Real Estate

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Communications Supervisor, Communications