

Report to Council



Date: February 14, 2022

To: Council

From: City Manager

Subject: City of Kelowna and University of British Columbia Okanagan Research Collaboration

Department: City / UBCO Research Collaboration Joint Steering Committee

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information the report from the City / UBCO Research Collaboration Joint Steering Committee, providing a progress update regarding various collaborative research initiatives.

Purpose:

To receive a progress update from the City / UBCO Research Collaboration Joint Steering Committee regarding various collaborative research initiatives.

Background:

It has been recognized by the Administration at both UBC and the City of Kelowna that in addition to the existing collaborations between our two institutions, there are greater opportunities to utilize applied research to enhance our community, protect our environment and develop solutions to the challenges of our time.

In September and October 2020, more than 20 representatives from the City and UBC Okanagan met in facilitated workshops to explore the development of a framework for enhanced collaboration. The collaboration is motivated by the added value that can be achieved when the University's applied research excellence is leveraged to maximize the City's strengths in service delivery, planning and infrastructure development.

The workshop discussions were instrumental in development of a *Framework for Enhanced Collaboration* which sets out basic collaboration principles, strategic theme areas and a proposed governance model.

Strategic theme areas are:

Waste reduction / management	Focus on the Glenmore Landfill as a 'test site' for innovative approaches
Sustainable urban living	Design, infrastructure and policy initiatives aimed at creating inclusive, high-density urban neighbourhoods
Climate resilience	Strategies and initiatives aimed at ensuring regional safety and prosperity in a changing climate

Homelessness	Actionable solutions to chronic and episodic homelessness in the Central Okanagan
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The Framework was finalized in January 2021 and a joint Steering Committee was formed. Throughout 2021, the Steering Committee has been meeting monthly to establish a process for evaluating and implementing research opportunities which are aligned with UBC Okanagan research goals and City priorities. Several initiatives have been identified and collaborative planning is underway.

These include:

- **Enhanced Mobility Corridor:** Improving the connectivity of the UBC Okanagan Campus, Kelowna International Airport and the downtown area using the Okanagan Rail Trail and existing and emerging alternative travel modes;
- **EV Charging:** An analysis of the technological, financial and environmental feasibility for developing rapid battery charging for Transit and fleet vehicles in Kelowna;
- **Sustainable Aquatic Center Operations:** Formulation of optimal operational strategies which take into account the energy use and emissions associated with operating an aquatic centre, and how factors such as level of disinfectant use, air and water circulation and water temperature influence the quality of the aquatic centre environment and user experience.

As this collaborative relationship between our institutions matures, it is envisaged that the number, scope and importance of the applied research projects will continue to grow.

This report provides an update regarding collaborative research initiatives and will be presented by the Steering Committee Co-Chairs: City Manager Doug Gilchrist, and UBC Okanagan Vice-President of Research and Innovation, Dr. Phil Barker.

Internal Circulation:

Communications
Information Services
Airport

Considerations applicable to this report:

Existing Policy:

Imagine Kelowna:

Principle 1: Collaborative

A community where people of all backgrounds work together to meet collective challenges.

Principle 2: Smarter

Support innovation that helps drive inclusive prosperity.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

The 2022 Provisional budget includes \$100,000 as the City's contribution to an ongoing Collaborative Research Grant Fund. Pending approval, UBCO will provide a matching contribution, for a total annual

fund of \$200,000 which will be used to leverage additional funding from other sources in support of collaborative applied research initiatives reviewed by the Steering Committee.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements
External Agency/Public Comments
Communications Comments

Submitted by: D. Gilchrist, City Manager

Report prepared by: S. Kochan, Partnership Manager

Approved for inclusion:

DG

cc:

G. Ritchie, Senior Airport Development Manager

J. Pabla, Information Services Director

L. Corcoran, Communications Department Manager

A. Hanson, Communications Manager, Office of the Vice-Principal, Research and Innovation

L. Menzies, Executive Office Manager