

COMMITTEE REPORT



Date: April 10, 2017
RIM No. 1210-21
To: Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)
From: Community Planning and Strategic Investments (TG)
Application: Agriculture Plan Update **Applicant:** City of Kelowna
Subject: Agriculture Plan Update Draft Implementation Strategy

1.0 Purpose

To gather feedback from the Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) on the draft implementation strategy for the City of Kelowna Agriculture Plan Update.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 Background

The Agriculture Plan Update, currently underway, will provide direction for the 55 per cent of the land base zoned for agriculture in the City of Kelowna and will allow the following goals to be integrated into a current and responsive policy document:

- Develop clear policies that serve to protect and promote agriculture while preserving the character of Kelowna;
- Identify opportunities to strengthen farming and to develop agriculture as an economic driver;
- Increase the amount of, and access to, locally grown and produced food; and
- Build resilience in the community against the rising costs of food and risks from changing conditions.

At the March 13 AAC meeting, staff presented a draft recommended policy and action list for the Agriculture Plan Update under four key theme areas:

1. Strengthening local policies and regulations to protect agriculture.
2. Stewarding natural resources and the environment for food production.
3. Improving awareness of local agriculture and access to local food.
4. Fostering and sustaining farm businesses and farmland.

After incorporating the AAC's feedback from the last meeting, the 54 recommended policies and actions that the City can take a lead role in as well as the 10 actions the City can support, have been drafted into an Implementation Strategy to accompany the Agriculture Plan Update.

2.2 Draft Implementation Strategy

The draft Implementation Strategy (Appendix A) for the Agriculture Plan update has developed a workplan to implement the policies and actions in three phases:

- Phase 1: Will address 26 actions between 2017 and 2019.
- Phase 2: Will address 20 actions between 2020 and 2022.
- Phase 3: Will address 12 actions between 2023 and 2027.
- Supporting actions: As the City is not the lead, a timeline has not been assigned to these actions.

Note: Appendix B provides a full description of each of the recommended policies and actions that are referenced in the Implementation Strategy.

The Agriculture Plan Update recommended policies and actions provide a detailed pathway to ensure agricultural land is protected for the long term. With this Plan update, the draft implementation strategy scopes anticipated resources to successfully complete the actions and policies prescribed in the Plan. Dedicated resources, both financial and staff, are necessary to ensure the Plan's success.

It is anticipated that additional resources will be required to implement the policies and actions of the Agriculture Plan Update. These include:

- 1.0 FTE (full time equivalent) planning staff – with existing staff resources and workloads, an additional planning staff would be required to implement the Agriculture Plan Update in the timeline required.
- 0.5 FTE bylaw officer – Several of the policies and actions have bylaw implications. Due to the current staff resources and workloads, having an additional 0.5 FTE bylaw officer dedicated to agriculture will help ensure success of the implemented policies and actions.
- Annual budget request – An annual budget should also be dedicated to the implementation of the Agriculture Plan Update to cover the costs associated with engagement, signage, research, communication materials, and/or alternative ownership models.

2.3 Next Steps

The following next steps and associated timeline are anticipated leading up to the completion of the Agriculture Plan Update:

Draft Agriculture Plan Update and staff circulation	April 2017
Council workshop	May 2017
Engagement	mid-May 2017
Revised Plan based on feedback	May 2017
Plan presented to Council	June 2017

Staff will inform the AAC with a completed draft Agriculture Plan Update prior to presenting the final Plan to Council in May.

Upon endorsement of the final Agriculture Plan update, it is anticipated that this Plan will be an important document that guides development approvals, informs the forthcoming 2040 OCP update, and equips various City departments with short, mid and long term work planning items to realize the Plan's vision of:

Kelowna is a resilient, diverse and innovative agricultural community that celebrates farming and values farmland as integral to our healthy food system, economy and culture.¹

¹ A survey, completed by over 550 people, showed that over 73 per cent of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the vision (it should be noted that an additional 18 per cent of respondents were neutral).

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Agriculture Plan Update Implementation Strategy DRAFT

Appendix B – Agriculture Plan Update Final Key Areas and Recommended Actions DRAFT