



Legislation Text

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St. Albert COVID-19 Recovery Concept Plan

Presented by: Kerry Hilts, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the COVID-19 Recovery Concept Plan as set out in the report dated April 20, 2020 entitled "St. Albert COVID-19 Recovery Concept Plan" and its attachments.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to identify the scope of Administration's proposed Concept Plan for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic including:

- (a) the path by which the Administration will configure the municipal organization to emphasize the importance of recovery;
- (b) the enactment of a bylaw to create a governance-level Recovery Task Force composed of both Council members and public members; and
- (c) to recommend that Council consider and approve the attached Concept Plan as presented.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

While not a specific focus area in Council's Strategic Plan, or a single Corporate Initiative in the Corporate Business Plan, a recovery plan adopted at the highest governance level of the corporation -- i.e. Council -- will be critical to both the municipal corporation and the community moving forward in a post-COVID-19 environment, and as such may be expected to have impacts in all areas of the Strategic Plan.

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

The Recovery Plan is likely to impact many, if not most, areas of service delivery.

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION

On April 6, 2020, Council passed motion CM-20-013 which reads as follows:

That Administration provide a concept plan for St. Albert COVID-19 Recovery, for Council's consideration on April 20, 2020;

That Administration develop proposed governance principles and procedures including a statement of purpose, selection criteria for external stakeholders and terms of reference, for a Recovery Task Force to be appointed by Council to support and oversee implementation of the plan for St. Albert COVID-19 Recovery, for Council's consideration on April 20, 2020;

That any funding required for the St. Albert COVID-19 Recovery Concept Plan and Recovery Task Force be part of the \$2.0 M allocated by Council on March 13 (\$1 million), March 23 (\$400 thousand) and April 6 (\$600 thousand) for costs associated with the City of St. Albert's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

There are typically five (5) phases to emergency management:

1. Protection
2. Prevention
3. Response
4. Recovery
5. Resiliency/Sustainability

While the City of St. Albert and emergency management authorities across the world are currently operating within the Response category, it is important to be actively planning for Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

While within the Response Phase, the situation appears to be stabilizing, it is critical to remain cognizant of risks and dangers COVID-19 still poses to the community and that "spikes" within the curve could still occur.

The distinction between the prevailing situations under the Response and Recovery phases is identified in the Recovery Concept Plan:

Response: focus is on achieving stability and critical/vital service delivery. There is a Public Health Emergency in effect, and actions are taken to address emerging needs, with highly centralized decision-making mechanisms in place.

Recovery: focus is on achieving the "New Normal" and necessary/desired service delivery. The Public Health Emergency is no longer in effect, and decisions are made with a longer-term planning horizon and less-centralized decision-making mechanisms.

A broad range of City resources will be required to recover from the many and serious impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the mid- to long-term. The Concept Plan articulates key Action Areas, distinguishing between Internal and External focuses, as well as Primary Objectives and Outcomes for each. The Concept Plan has been forwarded to recovery experts in the Province to provide advice on the actions, objects and outcomes for success. At the time of this report being written, we have not received feedback.

The Advisory Committee will play a role in the External focus areas, at a governance level.

The Desired End State of the Recovery stage is two-fold:

1. The City of St. Albert has fully recovered from COVID-19, is operating sustainably, and we are recognized as one of the best communities in Canada to live in.
2. The City adopts new ways of service delivery that contribute to long-term recovery and future sustainability, reflecting a Post-COVID-19 operating environment.

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS OR ENGAGEMENT

This initiative will establish an advisory committee called the St. Albert COVID-19 Recovery Task Force that will:

- (a) be informed of actions taken and the status of planning for future actions within identified Internal Action Areas:
 - a. Employee Support
 - b. City-Owned Facilities
 - c. Service Delivery
 - d. Economic Resilience
- (b) be consulted regarding potential actions in identified External Action Areas (Business Sector Support and Community Partner Support) and make recommendations to Council with respect to such actions.

This approach will ensure that Task Force members are kept fully informed of what the City is doing and intends to do on the internal/operational level, while maintaining a governance level lens on external action areas. For example, the Task Force would develop the strategies for Business Sector and Community Partner Supports, while tasking the Recovery Team to develop the actions, activities and objectives required to meet the identified outcomes.

An initial step will be to identify and recruit a cross-section of highly qualified and motivated members to sit on the Advisory Committee. A more robust Communications Plan will be developed as part of the broader Recovery project and will be implemented as the project progresses, as the community and the world transition from Response to Recovery.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

Financial:

At the April 20, 2020, Council Meeting, a new status update will be provided regarding costs to-date incurred by the City of St. Albert as part of the “Response” phase to the COVID-19 pandemic. The work of the Recovery Task Force may identify new initiatives that could be undertaken by the City as part of mid- and longer-range Recovery efforts, that will be subject to Council approval.

Council has allocated \$2 Million to COVID-19 response to-date.

Legal / Risk:

N/A

Program or Service:

There are no immediate impacts on City programs or services as part of the Recovery effort. However, there may be future recommendations regarding existing or future City service-levels, that would be subject to Council approval.

Organizational:

In order to support the Recovery Task Force and its work, existing resources from within Administration will be utilized; however, some external supports may be required from time to time, including partner agencies. Further, members of staff typically allocated to support some City services may be redeployed to support recovery efforts.

ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

1. Council could refer this item back to Administration for further information or refinement.

Report Date: April 20, 2020

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