

Correspondence for Information Only



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Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury and Smart Growth

Presented To:	Priorities Committee
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Recommendation

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Background

At the Priorities Committee meeting of May 20, 2009 representatives from the Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury made an electronic presentation regarding the Coalition and Smart Growth. The Coalition reviewed the benefits of embedding sustainability in municipal decision making, and recommended to the Committee that the City should proceed with the development of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) with a focus on action plans and implementation. In addition, they advised that an Advisory Panel or working group of the Healthy Community Cabinet (HCC) should be struck to assess and implement land-use planning tools that best support sustainability and Smart Growth. This work would complement and provide direction for an ICSP appropriate for Greater Sudbury. The Priorities Committee referred this matter to staff to review the materials and provide recommendations on the best way to proceed.

With this in mind, staff have met with this group for further discussion. In general terms there was agreement that an association with the HCC appears to make most sense. This work will contribute to the mandate of the HCC. As well, the HCC is an established body appointed by Council and is viewed as providing an effective vehicle to develop this type of sustainability plan.

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In the discussion with staff it was also agreed that the City has in place many documents that speak to the goals of an ICSP. These include such things as the Official Plan, the EarthCare Sudbury Local Action Plan, and the Healthy Community Strategy among others.

The Coalition has identified a mandate to “fill in the gaps, remove barriers, accelerate implementation and embed sustainability”, with respect to municipal decision making that best supports environmental, social, and economic sustainability. In order to explore this opportunity, staff is proposing that an informal working group under the EarthCare Sudbury umbrella be struck to examine this proposal. Initially this group will consist of Planning Services Division and Community Development staff and representatives from a Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury. Once formed, this group will look to further expand membership in order to obtain a balanced community perspective on the issue of sustainability and municipal decision making.

EarthCare Sudbury represents the environmental pillar under the Healthy Community Strategy. This is an appropriate vehicle for these types of discussion to occur. At this time we are not recommending that the City of Greater Sudbury apply for funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for an ICSP. Rather, we are recommending that informal discussion occur with the focus being to clearly identify the gaps and the appropriate process to follow and what might be developed by this group. It is felt that the notion of using an informal group will allow a free flowing discussion around this issue, that can best identify the most appropriate structure and most effective outputs for the goals identified. In short we do not want to presuppose what this process might develop into, leaving this to be identified by the group as part of its mandate.

We expect that EarthCare Sudbury will report to the HCC the results of these discussion in the near future.