

Staff Report: Economic Recovery Action Items

October 13, 2020

Planning Services Division

BACKGROUND

Staff recently completed a literature review of the land use planning issues affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and some potential responses that municipalities could undertake to address these issues and help facilitate the economic recovery. The findings of this literature review were presented as part of the "Strengthening Development Approval Services Update" report to Finance and Administration Committee on September 15 and were summarized as:

- Impacts of Working From Home
- Opportunities to Align Capital Projects with Long Term Resiliency
- The Need for Flexible and Adaptable Regulatory Frameworks
- Small and Medium Sized Businesses Will Need Assistance
- Food Security
- The Essence of Cities will be Tested

The September 15th report indicated that a further report on potential policy action items to address the above issues would be forthcoming.

POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

Anticipating some of the issues and challenges highlighted in the above literature review, there are some proactive actions that the City could take to mitigate these challenges and facilitate the recovery from a land use planning perspective. Examples of these actions would include a review of current zoning regulations to facilitate working from home, ecommerce and mixed use neighbourhoods. The attached table identifies the potential action, the rationale, whether this would be a new initiative or one that is currently underway and whether or not it would represent a service level increase.

CONCLUSION

This report highlights the findings of a literature review on actions that municipalities could take from land use planning policy perspective to help mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate an economic recovery. The report recommends that staff be directed to include these initiatives in the 2021 work plan.

REFERENCES

1. Strengthening Development Approval Services Update – September 2019
Finance and Administration Committee:
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&lang=en&id=1514&itemid=18184>