

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: YORK UNIVERSITY UPDATE TO COUNCIL

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, City Manager

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To provide Council with York University's first annual update on the progress towards advancing a medical school and health-related research and education at the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct (VHCP).

Report Highlights

- The City of Vaughan's partnership agreement with York University relating to the allocation of lands in the VHCP for the future York University educational facility requires that York U deliver an annual report to Council regarding key milestones and progress towards the realization of the VHCP vision.
- This annual report from York University highlights recent research collaboration initiatives, the success of the first Community Health lecture series, and the progress toward establishing a School of Medicine in the VHCP.
- Staff will continue to work closely with York University to support the establishment of the medical school at the VHCP and advance the site as a world-class destination for excellence in health research, education, practice, and innovation.

Recommendations

1. THAT Council receive an update from Rhonda Lenton, President of York University, regarding key milestones and achievements by York University in advanced health-related research and education, and plans for the future medical school at the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct; and

2. THAT the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to execute agreements amending the Implementation Principles Agreement and the Option to Purchase Agreement between York University and the City of Vaughan to change the timelines associated with certain milestones in said agreements as detailed in this report, and in a form satisfactory to the Deputy City Manager, Legal and Administrative Services & City Solicitor.

Background

The vision for the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct is a world-class, health innovation destination that will enhance the City's social and economic vitality.

The VHCP will be a destination for excellence in health research, education, commercialization, and innovation. The expertise and physical co-location of Mackenzie Health, York University, and ventureLAB at the VHCP will provide an opportunity to leverage cross-disciplinary expertise and have the VHCP emerge as a leading medical innovation node.

The vision for the VHCP includes the establishment of a dedicated York University facility for research, education, innovation, and community engagement in health.

The City of Vaughan's partnership agreement with York University relating to the allocation of lands in the VHCP for the future York University educational facility requires that York U deliver an annual report to Council regarding key milestones and progress towards the realization of the VHCP vision.

This annual report from York University highlights recent research collaboration initiatives, the success of the first Community Health lecture series, and the progress toward establishing a School of Medicine in the VHCP.

York University has globally recognized expertise and resources to bring to health innovation partnerships, including 11 faculties supporting interdisciplinary health research, 6 health-specific, interdisciplinary Organized Research Units, and dozens of research collaborations in more than 30 countries.

York University offers high-quality health programs – many of which are ranked in the top 100 in the world — and are graduating leaders in nursing, kinesiology, health and biomedical sciences, psychology, neuroscience, health policy, health informatics and management, social work, critical disabilities, global health, health technologies and analytics, and disease modelling.

York University also has a large network of health researchers — including more than 250 faculty members actively conducting research in health-related areas — from neuro and vision science; to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and inflammatory-related diseases; to mental illness and addiction; to disease modelling and anti-microbial resistance.

With 11 Faculties supporting interdisciplinary health research, more than 250 faculty members actively conducting research in health-related areas, and dozens of research collaborations in more than 30 countries, York University has significant expertise and capacity for research, education, and innovation and is a critical partner in achieving the objectives of the VHCP.

In March 2024, Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, introduced the 2024 Budget in the Ontario Legislature. The budget includes plans to fund and support the establishment of a York University School of Medicine (YUSoM) in Vaughan.

York University has been working to establish a medical school for more than 15 years. In 2022, York University officially submitted a Major Capacity Expansion (MCE) proposal to the Ontario government for a new School of Medicine, to be established at the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct (VHCP).

The recent provincial approval for the YUSoM is a critical milestone in the advancement of the VHCP as a world-class destination for health and health innovation. York University and the City of Vaughan continue to work together to advance this transformative investment and deepen partnerships in the VHCP.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Mayor Del Duca welcomes approval and provincial funding for York University's School of Medicine in Vaughan – News Release – March 26, 2024](#)

[York University welcomes transformative investment in next phase to create a new School of Medicine – Media Release – March 26, 2024](#)

[Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct Advisory Task Force Findings Report \(Transmittal\) – December 12, 2022](#)

[Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct – Enabling Next Steps – Committee of the Whole \(2\) Report – Tuesday, February 8, 2022](#)

[City of Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct Feasibility Study and Partnership – Committee of the Whole \(2\) Report – Wednesday, October 13, 2021](#)

[City of Vaughan Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital Advisory Taskforce – Committee of the Whole \(1\) Report – Tuesday, June 1, 2021](#)

[City of Vaughan news release, announcing the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by the healthcare precinct partners, dated October 2nd, 2019](#)

[Partnership to Advance Economic Development Opportunities in the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct – Committee of the Whole Report – Tuesday, June 4, 2019](#)

Analysis and Options

Persistent challenges in the current health system highlight the need for innovation and collaboration between key healthcare stakeholders. The co-location of Mackenzie Health, York University and ventureLAB in the VHCP will facilitate the collaborative development of the next generation of healthcare practices, policies, technologies, and talent.

Co-location in the VHCP will facilitate collaboration between Mackenzie Health, York University and ventureLAB at the cutting-edge of health research, education, innovation, and commercialization. Collaboration between York University and Mackenzie Health, including training placements which leverage the hospital's integrated technologies, will help drive a focus on next generation medical and health education which leverages digital and patient-centred practices.

The YUSoM will play a significant role in addressing current health system challenges by focusing on preparing a new generation of primary care physicians who represent and serve diverse communities across the school's catchment areas.

York University is internationally recognized for its top-ranked, interdisciplinary health programs and health science research and innovation. The plans for the new School of Medicine build on that strong foundation addressing urgent unmet needs in central Ontario.

York University's vision is to create positive change by providing a diverse group of students with access to high-quality education at a research-intensive university that is committed to enhancing the well-being of the communities it serves. This transformative investment will generate significant economic and social benefits, and solidify the VHCP as a first-of-its-kind destination for excellence in health education, research, innovation, and practice.

The development of the VHCP will bring significant Return on Investment in the form of one-time and recurring economic benefits of local, regional and national significance.

Development of the VHCP will lead to direct and indirect expansion of the local economy by generating new economic opportunities, employment growth and government revenues.

One-Time Impacts

- More than \$755 million in value added to the Canadian economy, opportunities for some 6,300 full-time equivalent employment positions and upwards of \$276 million in government revenues; the vast majority of which would accrue directly within the City of Vaughan and surrounding GTA.

Recurring Impacts

- Support for a total permanent, on-site employment base of some 1,800 jobs, yielding more than \$350 million in operational output each year (excluding the hospital).

Other Benefits

- Opportunities to enhance the municipal profile of the City of Vaughan, attract major anchor institutions, foster a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as optimize recent and ongoing spending infrastructure, among other intangible benefits.

Staff will continue to work closely with York University to support the establishment of the medical school at the VHCP and advance the site as a world-class destination for excellence in health research, education, practice, and innovation.

York University and the City of Vaughan continue to collaborate closely on planning for the new medical school, as well as key capacity-building initiatives such as the Community Health Lecture series and the development of strategies for collaboration within the VHCP partnership. The upcoming mission to Chicago, led by Mayor Del Duca

and joined by President Rhonda Lenton, will focus on gaining insights from international exemplars of best practices in health innovation and collaboration and exploring opportunities to translate international models to the VHCP context.

Request to amend certain milestone timelines in Agreements with York University.

On February 6, 2023, the City of Vaughan and York University executed an Option to Purchase Agreement (OPA) and an Implementation Principles Agreement (IPA), to facilitate the establishment of a York University Medical School within the VHCP. Those agreements set out certain milestones that York University must achieve in order to ensure the timely establishment of a medical school in Vaughan. As detailed above and in the presentation from York University, significant work has been completed and milestones achieved by York University over the past year. York University has requested the time set in the agreements for certain milestones be modified as detailed in Attachment 2. Staff have reviewed the requested time extensions and recommend Council approve amendments to the OPA and IPA in accordance with Attachment 2, as requested by York University.

Financial Impact

None.

Operational Impact

None.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The Vaughan Healthcare Precinct will become an important regional asset and major employment node that will create economic opportunity and attract skilled labour from across York Region. The VHCP offers a unique value proposition that reflects the ongoing evolution of the City of Vaughan into a major urban centre, leverages the establishment of new transportation and institutional infrastructure in York Region, as well as capitalizes on recent trends and opportunities in the economy relating to healthcare innovation and delivery.

York University's activities in Vaughan, including the establishment of the medical school, will have far reaching social and economic impact across the region by creating new jobs and educational opportunities, attracting and retaining healthcare talent, enhancing the quality and accessibility of healthcare services, and supporting research, training and technological innovation.

Conclusion

It is appropriate that Committee receive the update from Rhonda Lenton, President of York University, regarding key achievements by York University in 2023, and plans for establishing the new School of Medicine at the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct.

For more information, please contact: Raphael Costa, Director, Economic Development, ext. 8891.

Attachments

1. Presentation to Council - York University.
2. York University Requested Timeline Amendments.

Prepared by

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Diana Soos, Director of Legal Services and Deputy City Solicitor, ext. 8125.

Approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Spensieri', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nick Spensieri, City Manager