

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, September 20, 2022

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: UPDATE ON THE VHCP ADVISORY TASK FORCE

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, City Manager

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To provide an update on the progress and wrap-up of the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct (VHCP) Advisory Task Force.

Report Highlights

- The mandate of the VHCP Advisory Task Force was to set the direction and priorities to realize the VHCP as a destination for health and healthcare delivery, education, research, innovation, and commercialization.
- One of the key milestones identified for realizing this vision was to anchor the VHCP partners, Mackenzie Health, York University and ventureLAB at the site.
- In June 2022, less than three years after the original MOU was signed, Council approved recommendations to enter a ground-lease amending agreement with Mackenzie Health and to transfer lands to York University to establish a research, education and innovation facility.
- The VHCP Advisory Task Force members have met three times since December 2021. The final Task Force meeting has been delayed to Q4 2022 due to challenges in achieving quorum for the meeting.
- The VHCP partnership continues to meet and coordinate ongoing strategic planning, program development and collaborative promotional efforts, and several activities and strategies for advancing the development of the VHCP have been identified for the remainder of 2022.

Recommendation

1. That this report be received for information.

Background

Council approved the VHCP Advisory Task Force Terms of Reference on June 1, 2021, which identified a mandate to set the direction and priorities to realize the VHCP as a destination for health and healthcare delivery, education, research, innovation, and commercialization.

One of the key milestones identified for realizing this vision was to anchor the VHCP partners, Mackenzie Health, York University and ventureLAB at the site.

The VHCP Advisory Task Force is comprised of members of Council and stakeholders, as follows:

- a. The Mayor and the Ward 1 Councillor represent Council as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Task Force, respectively;
- b. The President of Mackenzie Health;
- c. The President of York University; and
- d. The President and CEO of ventureLAB.

VHCP Development: Progress To-Date

At the December 2021 VHCP Advisory Taskforce meeting, the taskforce members advanced a recommendation that staff seek Council authorization to enter negotiations with York University, Mackenzie Health and ventureLAB for City-owned land in the VHCP.

In June 2022, Council approved recommendations to a) enter into a ground-lease amending agreement with Mackenzie Health to enable expansion of the hospital and development of a long-term care facility, and to establish a ventureLAB MedTech lab in future Mackenzie Health facilities; and b) to transfer lands to York University to establish a research, education and innovation facility.

Both agreements represent a significant milestone in the plans to establish all three partners in the precinct. Reached less than three years after the partners came together to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), these agreements were achieved far earlier than expected.

Development of the VHCP has been progressing at a rapid pace and the partnership has pursued many activities to establish the precinct as a world-class destination for health innovation, including:

- October 2019: MOU signed, formalizing collaboration between the City of Vaughan, Mackenzie Health, York University and ventureLAB to complete a feasibility study to maximize the best use of the VHCP lands

- November 2019: VHCP partners take part in a City-led Business Mission to Israel that is focused on studying global best practices in healthcare innovation
- September 2021: Feasibility study published and received by City of Vaughan Council
- September 2021: Establishment of the VHCP Advisory Task Force which will meet until May 2022 to set the direction for the realization of the VHCP vision
- December 2021: VHCP Advisory Task Force advanced a recommendation that staff seek Council authorization to enter negotiations with York University, Mackenzie Health and ventureLAB for City-owned land in the VHCP
- February 2022: Council approved VHCP Advisory Task Force recommendation and directed staff to enter negotiations for land in the precinct.
- April 2022: Mackenzie Health announced support from the provincial government to build a new, 256-bed long-term care facility adjacent to the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital.
- May 2022: Mayor Bevilacqua, together with the VHCP partnership, hosted a meeting with the Consul General of Israel in Toronto, and Dr. Eyal Zimlichman, to explore opportunities for collaboration with the Sheba Medical Centre of Tel HaShomer, Israel on the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct (VHCP).
- June 2022: Mackenzie Health has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ventureLAB to provide space within the expanded Mackenzie Health footprint to enable ventureLAB to establish a MedTech innovation lab at the VHCP.
- June 2022: Council approved a ground-lease amending agreement with Mackenzie Health and a Letter of Intent to transfer lands to York University, enabling the development of facilities at the site.
- July 2022: The VHCP partners participated in the 2022 Collision conference to raise the profile of the precinct as a world-class destination for health innovation among a global audience of leading businesses and international trade organizations.

Amid all this work, the VHCP partners have pursued ongoing capacity-building, including collaborative talent development initiatives and grant submissions, to drive collaboration focused on four areas:

1. Translating research and innovation to policy and practice;
2. Leveraging data analytics and machine learning to advance quality and efficiency of care;
3. Developing and commercializing health technologies; and
4. Preparing the healthcare and health tech workforce of the future.

Previous Reports/Authority

[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](#)

[Member’s Resolution: City of Vaughan Supports York University’s Plan to Establish a School of Medicine – Committee of the Whole \(2\), June 8, 2021](#)

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

[Mayor Bevilacqua welcomes York University's plan to establish a new School of Medicine in Vaughan - News Release, May 20, 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

VHCP Advisory Task Force Status

The VHCP Advisory Task Force members have met three times since December 2021. The final Task Force meeting has been delayed to Q4 2022 due to challenges in achieving quorum for the meeting. The VHCP partnership continues to meet and coordinate ongoing strategic planning, program development and collaborative promotional efforts.

Next Steps

The VHCP Advisory Task Force will meet in Q4 2022 to approve the final Task Force findings report and to conclude the term of the Task Force.

There are several activities planned to continue advancing the goals and development of the VHCP, including:

- Two half-day strategic planning sessions in October 2022 to identify opportunities for deeper collaboration between Mackenzie Health, York University and ventureLAB, as well as next steps for realizing the vision of the precinct;
- Staff Participation at the international Web Summit to raise the profile of Vaughan’s Healthcare cluster and identify future collaborators;

- A follow-up meeting between the VHCP partnership and contacts from the Sheba Medical Centre to explore opportunities for collaboration on the innovation and commercialization goals of the VHCP; and
- Ongoing grant applications to fund research, education, innovation and commercialization projects led by the VHCP partners.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Mackenzie Health is a regional organization spanning two municipalities in York Region. 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.

The VHCP would also be complementary to other GTHA innovation nodes, including the MaRS Discovery District and University Hospital Network at the south end of the innovation corridor stretching from York Region to downtown Toronto, as well as the McMaster and Waterloo innovation hubs in Hamilton and Waterloo respectively.

Conclusion

The VHCP Advisory Task Force has achieved its original mandate by entering land negotiations with its partners.

The VHCP partnership continues to meet and coordinate ongoing strategic planning, program development and collaborative promotional efforts, and several activities and strategies for advancing the development of the VHCP have been identified for the remainder of 2022.

For more information, please contact Julie Flesch at Julie.Flesch@vaughan.ca.

Attachments

None

Prepared by

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Raphael Costa, Director, Economic Development.

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