

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, February 09, 2021

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: 2019-2022 MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN UPDATE

FROM:

Michael Coroneos, Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval of the City of Vaughan's 2019-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Report Highlights

Summarizes actions departments will take to advance accessibility in the City of Vaughan. Highlights include the following:

- Rick Hansen Gold Accessibility Certification
- Accessible Play Spaces
- Accessible Technology
- Accessible Employment Practices

Recommendation

1. That the City of Vaughan's 2019-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, be approved.

Background

The City of Vaughan is dedicated to being an accessible and inclusive City not because it is the law, but more importantly it is the right thing to do and is good for business. Accessibility benefits all Vaughan residents and visitors.

The City of Vaughan provides a number of programs and services for people with disabilities and regularly identifies and creates new opportunities to reflect the diverse and growing program needs of the community. Opportunities for persons with disabilities are vast and include the creative arts, health and wellness, life and social skills, performing arts, sports and leadership programs.

The City's Accessibility Plan 2019-2022 is an update of the 2013-2018 Accessibility Plan and outlines corporate and departmental objectives and achievements related to addressing accessibility issues and services at a corporate level.

The inclusivity of citizens with disabilities is a corporate-wide vision shared by Vaughan Council and staff as identified in Vaughan's corporate strategic plan. The City plays an important role in ensuring access for residents with disabilities and through the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC). The role of the VAAC is to advise Council to support the City's work in identifying and removing barriers to lay the foundation for a barrier-free, inclusive community.

Previous Reports/Authority

N/A

Analysis and Options.

The multi-year accessibility plan is a requirement of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and is a reflection of the City of Vaughan's commitment to advancing accessibility.

Financial Impact

There is an economic impact in regard to implementing the City's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The annual budget process includes capital projects submitted by departments which incorporate funding for initiatives to meet accessibility requirements. For day-to-day operations, departments seek to meet accessibility requirements within their operating budgets. Facility Management has allocated one million dollars over the next year to address costs related to the Accessibility plan. As the Accessibility Plan continues to be implemented, future operating or capital funding requests will be assessed and brought forward if needed.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

N/A.

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan is dedicated to being an accessible and inclusive City not because it is the law, but more importantly it is the right thing to do and is good for business. Accessibility benefits all Vaughan residents and visitors. The City of Vaughan takes great pride in being a community where people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities can thrive. The City's Accessibility Plan 2019-2022 is a reflection of that commitment and outlines the various activities and initiatives in support of accessibility.

For more information, please contact: Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility and Diversity Coordinator, 8641.

Attachment

1. 2019-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Prepared by

Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility and Diversity Coordinator, 8641

Approved by



Michael Coroneos,
Deputy City Manager,
Corporate Services, City Treasurer
and Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed by



Jim Harnum, City Manager