



NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsford City Council Adopts new Official Community Plan, points to transformative change for the City

Abbotsford, June 27, 2016 - Abbotsford City Council has received and adopted a new Official Community Plan (OCP), completing the Abbotsforward project, announced Mayor Henry Braun this evening.

An OCP is one of the City of Abbotsford's most important planning tools. It influences the way the community grows and develops by guiding how land can be used. Land use and development influence all parts of resident's daily lives, including where people live, work and play.

"Abbotsford's new OCP is intended to be a powerful catalyst for a more focused and improved Abbotsford at 200,000 people than it has been up until now," said Braun. "It is based on the input and ideas from nearly 8,000 interactions with residents and a rigorous technical analysis of different growth options."

The OCP's urban structure focuses the most diverse and highest densities of uses around three types of centres: a City Centre, Urban Centres and Neighbourhood Centres. This urban structure provides the foundation for a land use plan that projects 75% of new growth will occur in existing neighbourhoods and 25% in new neighbourhoods. The Plan promotes growth in areas where it is financially sustainable by using existing infrastructure and amenities, and aligns itself with new priorities like making walking, biking and transit delightful.

"While tonight's OCP adoption sees the completion of the Abbotsforward process, the work is only just now beginning for our community," said Braun. "The OCP sets the guiding template for other City plans and strategies, and we have already started the process of developing Neighbourhood Plans that will further support appropriate growth and development in strategic areas of our community."

The entire OCP can be found on the City of Abbotsford's website: www.abbotsford.ca/ocp.

"I would like to thank the OCP Citizen Advisory Commission and all of the residents who participated in the creation of the new plan," said Braun. "The community's interest and valuable input was a key component in ensuring this plan addresses a future Abbotsford that is inclusive of everyone."

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