
INFORMATION BULLETIN

Abbotsforward Report Explores the Impact of Growth and Development

ABBOTSFORD October 19, 2015 – Abbotsford City Council received a “Three Ways to Grow” report, as part of Abbotsforward, the Official Community Plan (OCP) update project today. The report summarizes the work completed so far, and includes details on how several growth scenarios will impact the City’s livability, finances, and infrastructure in the future.

The report also provides a foundation for the City as it begins the second round of community engagement and helps to ensure that policy and planning objectives align with the community’s vision for growth. “Three Ways to Grow” uses a future population of 200,000 people (60,000 more than are here in Abbotsford today) in order to measure how growth affects different community elements such as how many people live close to grocery stores or jobs, as well as the impact on major City infrastructure systems like transportation, water, storm water, and sanitary sewer.

Additionally, the report highlights the fact that it is more cost effective to accommodate more people in areas where infrastructure and services already exist. Out of the three ways to grow, the most compact option costs approximately \$100 million - or 15 per cent less than the most spread out option.

Over the next six weeks, Abbotsforward staff will take the results of the study and engage residents in an informed and open conversation about Abbotsford’s future. Residents will have a variety of ways to get involved, including an online survey, roadshow events, citizen circles, and neighbourhood walks. After the engagement is complete, staff will use the input to develop a preferred growth option that will be the first draft of the new OCP. The “Three Ways to Grow” report can be viewed at: www.abbotsford.ca/3waystogrow.

More information about the Abbotsforward OCP update project, including the survey and upcoming events can be found at www.abbotsforward.ca. Regular updates and activities will be broadcast through Twitter at www.twitter.com/abbotsforward and Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityOfAbbotsford.

Quote from Mayor Henry Braun:

“The “Three Ways to Grow” report provides a solid foundation for conversations to take place as the Abbotsforward project team once again goes out into the community to talk about what growth means for Abbotsford. The decisions that we make today about how our community will grow in the future will have an impact on all parts of our community. For this reason, it’s vital that the directions we are considering go through an open dialogue process with residents. By ‘doing the math’ about how growth scenarios impact our community now, we can ensure that our final policy and planning objectives align with the community vision and make financial sense tomorrow.”

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