



Corporate NO: C006

Report COUNCIL DATE: May 29, 2000_

COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: May 23, 2000**

FROM: General Manager, Planning & Development **FILE: 0042-038**

SUBJECT: Surrey Agricultural Plan Implementation Strategy

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning & Development Department recommends that:

1. This report be received as information; and
2. The City Clerk be instructed to forward a copy of this report, along with a copy of the Surrey Agricultural Plan, to the:
 - Agricultural Land Commission;
 - Ministry of Agriculture & Food;
 - Surrey Farmers' Institute;
 - Department of Fisheries and Oceans; and
 - Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks

BACKGROUND

At the October 25, 1999 Council-in-Committee meeting, Council received a delegation from Mike Bose, Surrey Farmers' Institute, and Darrell Zbeetnoff, Planning Consultant, who presented the recently completed Surrey Agricultural Plan. Subsequently, Council referred the Agricultural Plan to staff for a report outlining how and to what extent the elements of the Plan related directly to the City's jurisdiction may be reasonably incorporated into future work plans, given available resources.

The Agricultural Plan consists of two phases. Phase 1 is entitled "Analysis of Economic and Planning Issues

Facing Agriculture in the City of Surrey”. Phase 2 is entitled “Key Issues and Recommended Actions for Enhancing Surrey Agriculture”.

The Phase 1 Report provides a comprehensive background for identifying and assessing issues related to the protection, enhancement and promotion of agriculture in Surrey. The Phase 2 Report forms the heart of the Agricultural Plan. The report summarizes sixteen challenges facing Surrey's agricultural community, recommends actions for addressing the challenges, and identifies stakeholder roles and jurisdictional responsibilities.

Implementation of the various actions recommended to address Surrey's agricultural challenges is a responsibility that lies with various parties (Provincial and Federal Governments, City of Surrey, Surrey Farmers' Institute and Surrey farmers, amongst others) and is dependent upon their endorsement and resources, and on the financial viability of the proposed actions.

Staff from the Planning & Development Department met with representatives from various City departments to determine the feasibility of undertaking the actions recommended in the Agricultural Plan. Not all of the proposed actions for overcoming the sixteen challenges are feasible to incorporate into current work plans, given available resources. Those actions considered for implementation need to be approached with a sensitivity that ensures a balance between the needs of agriculture and the demands of the larger community in a growing City.

DISCUSSION

An Agricultural Plan Implementation Strategy (attached as Appendix 1) has been developed through a collaborative process amongst various City Departments. The purpose of the Strategy is to determine how the individual City Departments will address the actions within the City's jurisdiction outlined in Phase 2 of the Agricultural Plan.

A number of actions have been flagged for consideration in 2000 by the Planning & Development; Engineering; and Parks, Recreation & Culture Departments; and the Economic Development Office. Meetings with a working group, consisting of staff from each of these Departments/Divisions, will be held to review the actions flagged for consideration and to bring clarity to the roles and expectations of each of the respective Departments/Divisions. Staff from the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry of Agriculture & Food, and a cross-section of farmers from the Surrey Farmers' Institute and/or the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be invited to be part of the working group to discuss multi-jurisdictional issues.

The Implementation Strategy will be monitored on an on-going basis by the Agricultural Advisory Committee. The Planning & Development Department will update Council on the progress of the Implementation Strategy on a regular basis. A copy of the Agricultural Plan and the Implementation Strategy will be forwarded to relevant City Departments/Divisions for use in preparing future work programs. It is also recommended that a copy of this report, along with a copy of the Agricultural Plan, be forwarded to the following organizations with a request that they consider taking appropriate actions in relation to recommendations which have been identified as falling in their area of jurisdiction:

- Agricultural Land Commission
- Ministry of Agriculture & Food
- Surrey Farmers' Institute

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks

Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC Review)

The Agricultural Plan Implementation Strategy was reviewed by the AAC at their May 5, 2000 meeting. The Committee endorsed the Strategy, as attached in Appendix A, and recommended that it be forwarded to Council.

CONCLUSION

Phase 2 of the Agricultural Plan summarizes sixteen challenges facing Surrey's agricultural community, recommends actions for addressing these challenges, and identifies stakeholder roles and responsibilities. The Implementation Strategy, attached as Appendix 1, indicates how the elements of the Plan related directly to the City's jurisdiction may be incorporated into current and future work plans, given available resources. It is recommended that Council receive this report as information and authorize the City Clerk to forward copies of this report and the Agricultural Plan to the organizations cited in the Implementation Strategy which have jurisdiction for implementing some of the various actions cited in the Strategy.

Murray D. Dinwoodie

General Manager

Planning & Development Department

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