

**Date:** 2019-04-15

**Subject:** **Complete Neighborhood Audit Program**

**Contact:** Antonietta Minichillo, Manager, Community Innovation and Resilience, Planning & Development Services, 905-874-2175, Antonietta.Minichillo@brampton.ca

**Recommendations:**

1. That the report from Antonietta Minichillo, Manager, Community Innovation & Resilience, Planning & Development Services Department, dated May 13, 2019, re: Recommendation Report – Complete Neighbourhood Audit Program, be received;
2. That the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program become a permanent umbrella program to improve the quality of living in neighbourhoods across Brampton; and
3. That Planning Staff be directed to formalize and report back on a partnership and collaboration strategy with other internal departments and partner agencies

**Overview:**

- **Vision 3: Neighbourhoods of the *Brampton 2040 Vision: Living the Mosaic* recommends that the City of Brampton develop a Complete Neighbourhood Audit to “systematically update and revitalize existing neighbourhoods to ensure the full provisions for comfortable and sustainable living.”**
- **In June 2018, staff prepared a report to pilot the Neighborhood Audit Tool in three Brampton communities, and report back to Council regarding the results of these audits before implementing a City wide program.**
- **The neighbourhoods selected for the pilot were the E-Section in Bramalea (Ward 7), Gore/Castlemore (Ward 10), and Hickory Woods (Ward 4).**
- **The results of the pilot of the three neighbourhoods have been compiled and included in this report as Appendix ‘A’.**
- **Through the pilot neighbourhood audits staff determined that an overarching program to facilitate and oversee future neighbourhood level initiatives would be beneficial.**
- **The program can empower residents to play an active role in improving their own neighbourhoods and making them aware of existing resources.**

- Both the neighbourhood audits and the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program have received support from Region of Peel Public Health, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) to explore strategies to co-create and co-deliver the neighbourhood audits as a part of the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program.
- This recommendation report achieves the Council endorsed *Brampton 2040 Vision: Living the Mosaic*, in particular Action 3-1, establishing a Complete Neighbourhood Audit.
- This recommendation report helps facilitate compliance with the Strategic Plan's "Move and Connect", "Smart Growth", "Strong Communities", and the "Good Government" priorities.

### **Background:**

In May 2018, Brampton City Council endorsed the *Brampton 2040 Vision: Living the Mosaic* (the Brampton 2040 Vision). Vision 3: Neighbourhoods, Action 3-1 recommends a "Complete Neighbourhood Audit" (hereto referred as the "Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program") to "systematically update and revitalize existing neighbourhoods to ensure the full provisions for comfortable sustainable living." The aim is to connect residents to resources, and encourage them to play an active role in enhancing their neighbourhood. Taking immediate action on this Brampton 2040 Vision recommendation sustains the goal of innovative community engagement, fosters civic action and builds on the collaborative spirit the Vision is based upon.

In June 2018 Brampton City Council directed Planning & Development Services staff to pilot the Complete Neighbourhood Audit in three neighbourhoods. Through consultation with internal and external partners, the neighbourhoods chosen were: Bramalea E-Section (older development), Gore/Castlemore (newer development), and Hickory Wood (middle-aged development).

### **Current Situation:**

Staff were able to complete the three pilots from September to November 2018. Over 5,000 residents were informed of the pilot neighbourhood audits through mailed letters, social media outlets and other outreach methods. 300 Bramptonians were engaged in the process, and 100 residents were directly involved in the audits. The pilots consisted of a walking tour and workshop component, and in some cases, a public transportation element.

The Neighbourhood Audit Tool developed was comprehensive and combined a number of audit questions that holistically addressed a number of issues. Results from the surveys and the workshops showed some consistency throughout all three neighbourhoods. Themes surrounding safety, mobility, and a sense of community (or place-making) were a focus for residents – this was apparent from both survey data and

resident input during the workshop sessions. A detailed methodology including successive steps and results from the pilots is included in Appendix 'A' – Nurturing Neighbourhoods Methodology. The full results and detailed analysis of the audits can be found under the 'related documents' section of the following hyperlink: <http://www.brampton.ca/EN/City-Hall/Brampton-2040-Vision/Pages/Welcome.aspx>. The material will be moved to another location on a City webpage, should Council approve this report.

With the completion of the pilot it became clear that to deliver on innovative engagement and drive meaningful outcomes a larger program is needed. The City could create a parent program to facilitate and oversee future interventions in our communities. Planning Staff are proposing that an umbrella program, titled the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program, be established which would include the Neighbourhood Audit Tool.

#### Partnerships and Opportunities:

Through the development of the 2040 Vision, a number of partnerships have been established to ensure the success of the Vision and any related projects. Partnerships and collaboration was a key component of the pilot program from inception. A comprehensive group of partners, collaborators and contributors, both internally and externally, contributed to the success of the neighbourhood audit pilot program or will contribute to the program moving forward; including,

- Central West Local Health Integration Network (CW-LHIN)
- Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
- Credit Valley Conservation (CVC)
- Brampton Neighbourhood Watch
- Region of Peel Public Health
- Peel Regional Police
- Sheridan College
- Environment and Development Engineering, City of Brampton
- Economic Development and Culture, City of Brampton
- Fire and Emergency Services, City of Brampton
- Strategic Communications, City of Brampton
- Service Brampton (311), City of Brampton
- Community Services, City of Brampton
- GIS and Open Data, City of Brampton
- Brampton Transit, City of Brampton
- Recreation, City of Brampton
- Finance, City of Brampton

Following the pilot phase, City staff concluded that there are a number of programs and tools directed towards addressing sustainability, community safety, health, and well-

being at the neighbourhood level. The City, Region, and Conservation Authorities currently audit neighbourhoods in a number of ways. Both the Vision and Cultural Master Plan also call for additional audits. Staff reviewed the various audit initiatives and created a combined tool that could be co-delivered by the City and its partners in a unified and efficient approach.

It was also determined that the Region of Peel's Healthy Development Assessment Tool and City of Brampton's Sustainability Assessment Tool should continue to stand alone as monitors and evaluators of development proposals to assist planning and development stakeholders in creating healthy and supportive environments. However, these tools now become a component of the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program.

#### Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program:

The Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program is being developed in consultation with internal and external partners and will integrate the tools previously mentioned under one umbrella program. This approach is informed by existing strategies across other municipalities, which have integrated various tools under one program heading. The City has received support from staff at Region of Peel Public Health, the TRCA and the CVC (see Appendix 'B') to explore strategies to contribute to the design and collaborative delivery of the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program.

As part of the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program, the goal is to complete as many neighbourhood audits as possible by the end of this term of Council. Neighbourhoods will be prioritized based on a set of criteria that examines the current socio-economic status of Brampton neighbourhoods along with other considerations. The purpose is to identify the needs and capacities of neighbourhoods and determine the appropriate method to meet those needs while empowering residents.

Should Council recommend the establishment of the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program, it is essential to combine efforts of the City of Brampton, Region of Peel Public Health, TRCA, CVC and other external organizations, and to explore opportunities for sponsorship. Understanding that this is a new and innovative method of delivery, staff will report back to Council on this model once it is finalized with our partners. The spirit of integration and collaboration proposed ensures that the City better understands its communities and can foster meaningful intervention through an efficient and ground-breaking model of co-delivery. The collaborative approach enables staff to deliver significantly more audits than initially anticipated.

#### **Corporate Implications:**

##### Financial Implications:

There are no financial impacts directly associated with this report. This model relies on the contribution of other government agencies who stand to benefit from this

partnership. Any additional impacts will be addressed in a future report, pending Council approval.

#### Other Implications:

Contributions of subject matter expertise across departments and divisions is essential to the success of this initiative to foster relationships with external government agencies. Other implications associated with this report will be identified and discussed in a future report to council.

#### **Strategic Plan:**

This Recommendation Report directly helps achieve Focus Area 2 (Planning Vision) of the City's *Strategic Plan* as well as the *Strong Communities* portion by celebrating citizens and creating partnerships through arts, culture and social interaction.

This recommendation report also helps to facilitate compliance with the Strategic Plan's "Move and Connect" priority through the evaluation of existing mobility options within local neighbourhoods. The "Smart Growth" priority by building complete communities to accommodate growth for people and jobs and preserving and protecting natural and heritage environments with balanced, responsible planning. The "Strong Communities" priority through the celebration of citizens and the creation of partnerships through arts, culture and social interaction; creating connected spaces in the city for people to live, work and play; and supporting diversity and enabling the wellness of citizens through health and recreation. Lastly, this report helps achieve the "Good Government" priority by educating and engaging citizens in open and accountable ways that show value and enhance the image of the city, and investing in a collaborative environment with supportive organizational and governance practices and policies.

#### Brampton 2040 Vision – Living the Mosaic

Recommendation 3-1 of Vision 3: Neighbourhoods of the Brampton 2040 Vision, which recommends a "Complete Neighbourhood Audit" to systematically update and revitalize existing neighbourhoods to ensure the full provisions for comfortable sustainable living is achieved through this report.

#### **Conclusion:**

The Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program calls for various City departments, Regional agencies and community groups to deliver more efficient and integrated City services with a strong emphasis on community well-being. The program aims to empower residents, consolidate existing tools and create a robust and comprehensive audit tool, as well as leverage partnerships and funding to deliver a cost effective and meaningful model to nurture Brampton neighbourhoods and engage our community.

Approved by:

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Manager, Community Innovation &  
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Planning & Development Services

Approved by:

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Bob Bjerke  
Director, Policy Planning  
Planning & Development Services

**Attachments:**

Appendix A          Brampton Neighbourhood Methodology

Appendix B          Letters of Support