

Date: 2021-01-11

Subject: **Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan – Year 1 Progress Report**

Contact: Daniella Balasal, Policy Planner, Planning, Building and Economic Development, daniella.balasal@brampton.ca

Report Number: Planning, Building and Economic Development-2021-039

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Daniella Balasal, Policy Planner, Planning, Building, and Economic Development, dated January 11, 2021, to the Planning And Development Services Committee Meeting of February 22, 2021, re : **Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan Year 1 Progress Report (File J.BD. AFBS)**, be received; and,
2. That the City of Brampton continue to pursue and subsequently maintain the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Communities Designation through the ongoing advancement and implementation of the Brampton Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan ("the Plan").

Overview:

- **On June 19, 2020, Brampton's first ever Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan ("the Plan") was unanimously endorsed by City Council.**
- **This report brings forward the Plan's Year 1 Progress Report and associated progress reporting chart with performance indicators presenting the City's implementation efforts to date and the status of the Plan's 55 action items.**
- **The submission of the Year 1 Progress Report to Council will satisfy the last stage in the World Health Organization's (WHO) requirements for Brampton achieving the global Age-Friendly Communities Designation.**

- **It is recommended staff, on behalf of the corporation, pursue the WHO's age-friendly communities designation and continue implementation of Brampton's Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan.**

Background:

In November 2016, City Council formalized its commitment for Brampton to become a leading age-friendly community by directing staff to develop its first ever age-friendly strategy. To further this objective, City Council unanimously signed a commitment letter to pursue the World Health Organization's (WHO) Age-Friendly Communities designation and to join the global network of age-friendly communities and cities.

In 2017, the City's Age-Friendly Brampton Advisory Committee was formed, and in 2018 the City retained the consulting services of WSP to lead the development of a comprehensive strategy and action plan framed around the 8 dimensions of an age-friendly city as defined by the WHO. Project phases included completion of a baseline needs assessment report, resident survey, and extensive community consultation and engagement. Completion of the various project phases were captured in update reports to Council throughout the development of Brampton's age-friendly strategy.

On June 19, 2019, City Council unanimously endorsed Brampton's first Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan ("the Plan"). The Plan positions the City to fulfill its desire to be an inclusive, accessible, and affordable community that meets the needs of all residents. The Plan is framed by a vision statement, overarching goals, and 55 action items across the age-friendly community dimensions as identified by the World Health Organization. The 8 dimensions/focus areas of Brampton's age-friendly plan are:

- Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Civic Participation & Employment
- Communication & Information
- Community Support & Health Services

Through Council Resolution C222-2019, staff have been directed to report to Council annually on the achievement and implementation of the Plan's action items, and to also update the City's Official Plan Policies and Urban Design Guidelines to reflect age-friendly objectives.

Current Situation:

The City of Brampton is a diverse, young, and growing community. In 2016, youth (residents ages 0-19) comprised 27% of the population, whereas the proportion of seniors (65+) during the same time was approximately 11% of the population. It is anticipated that the seniors population will grow to 27% by 2051 (Watson & Associates Economists Ltd, 2020).

To meet the needs of its residents, by being inclusive and accessible, and promoting aging-in place, the City has developed an Age-Friendly Strategy & Action Plan (“the Plan”).

Implementation

The City is currently focused on implementing its Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan, including the advancement of the Plan’s 55 action items, in collaboration with internal business partners, members of the citizen-based Advisory Committee, and community stakeholders.

Since Council’s endorsement of the Plan in June 2019, staff efforts have focused on applying an age-friendly lens to city-wide initiatives, the planning and design of communities, city-owned buildings and construction projects, and tailoring the delivery of services and programs to address the specific needs of youth and older-adults within the community. Age-friendly community planning ranges from aging-in-place and housing considerations, to combating isolation and fostering opportunities for intergenerational connections.

The driving vision statement of Brampton’s Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan is, “Brampton will be an age-friendly community that meets the needs of all ages and abilities”, which will continue to guide Brampton’s city-building activities.

Advancement of the Plan’s action items will support Brampton’s intentions to further legitimize its involvement with the World Health Organization’s network of Age-Friendly Communities through a formal designation, and to continue its ongoing participation and contribution as a member of Ontario’s network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Brampton has satisfied the first 3 of the 4 steps in becoming a designated age-friendly community. The formal steps to becoming a designated community are listed below:

- ✓ Commitment Letter
- ✓ Baseline Assessment
- ✓ Strategy and Action Plan
- Evaluation

This recommendation report brings forward a Year 1 Progress Report, attached hereto as Appendix 1, which supports the fulfilment of the City's final step, *Evaluation*, in becoming a designated an age-friendly community by the World Health Organization.

Progress Report

This Progress Report identifies the work completed to date relating to the action items within Brampton's age-friendly plan, covering the period from September 2019 to December 2020. An extensive summary of activities undertaken in support of the action items is captured within a progress reporting chart. Performance indicators within the progress report serves as metrics to demonstrate fulfilment of the Plan's overarching goals and mandate.

The reporting chart and progress report collectively present a community "report card" to measure the success and achievement of Brampton's aspirations in becoming an age-friendly community leader.

The majority of the 55 action items are either underway or have been completed through the advancement of city-wide initiatives. The City of Brampton continues to take a comprehensive approach in its age-friendly activities through the active involvement of staff from 15+ teams across the corporation supporting age-friendly implementation efforts.

In addition, an Implementation Plan has been prepared to guide and focus the City's age-friendly work over the short term (2-3 years), including key activities and outputs. The implementation plan will be reviewed periodically to ensure corporate activities and reflect Brampton's objective to be a leading age-friendly community.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

The City has submitted application for funding under the province's new Inclusive Community Grant program for the redevelopment of an aging clubhouse which will include accessibility improvements. The improvements seek to enhance the social and physical participation of older adults and individuals with disabilities.

An application has also been submitted for funding under the federal government's New Horizon's Grant program for the development of a tutorial video to connect Brampton seniors to community resources and programs available to them. Funding announcements for both programs is anticipated to occur in early 2021.

At a local level, the **Advance Brampton Fund** is the City's community granting program that supports non-profit sector development and provides municipal funding to eligible Brampton-based non-profit or charitable organizations for strong project proposals that

align with and advance the City's Term of Council Priorities. As the Council-approved Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan supports the "Brampton is a Mosaic" Term of Council Priority, the City encourages funding applications for projects that support the objectives of the age-friendly Plan as part of the Advance Brampton Fund 2021 program. Projects relating to the age-friendly focus area will be required to demonstrate how they support intergenerational connects and the social inclusion of isolated older adults or youth.

Other Implications:

It is noted that many of the corporate age-friendly activities in 2020 related to the City's COVID 19 Pandemic response and recovery work. The establishment of the Mayor's COVID 19 Seniors Support, Youth Support, Social Support and Economic Development Task Forces, and the Reopening and Recovery Working Group have led many public and stakeholder engagement activities, including ongoing communication to residents and businesses throughout the pandemic.

Term of Council Priorities:

Implementation of the Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan aligns with the **Term of Council Priority 2: Brampton is a Mosaic, Sub-Priority: 2.4 Inclusive and Flexible Community Spaces**, with a focus on improving accessibility, affordability and encouraging greater civic participation among people of all ages and abilities.

Conclusion:

This report brings forward the Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan Year 1 Progress Report, and summarizes the City's implementation efforts including the status of the Plan's 55 action items from the period of September 2019 to December 2020. The progress report, together with the reporting chart and performance indicators serves as a community "report card" on the City's progress in becoming a leading age-friendly community.

It is recommended that the City continue implementation of the age-friendly Plan with annual progress reporting to Council, and that the City pursue and maintain the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Communities Designation as a demonstration of Brampton's commitment to being a leading age-friendly community.

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Attachments:

Appendix 1: Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan Year 1 Progress Report