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TOWARDS THE VISION: THIRD ANNUAL REPORT ON INDICATORS OF PROGRESS FOR THE YEAR 2004

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, February 25, 2005, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council receive and adopt this report and *Towards the Vision: Third Annual Report on Indicators of Progress*.
2. That *Towards the Vision: Third Annual Report on Indicators of Progress* be widely circulated to the public, stakeholders and staff and to local area municipalities.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides members of the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee and Regional Council with highlights of *Towards the Vision: Third Annual Report on Indicators of Progress*.

3. BACKGROUND

Vision 2026, launched by Council in May of 2002, was created through extensive consultation and collaboration with Council, staff and the community including organizations, individual citizens as well as councillors and staff of area municipalities over a two year period.

Vision 2026 is a community-based strategy outlining key areas of focus for the Region, its partners and residents over the long term. Its eight goals and approximately 130 action areas help set a broad context and framework for the Region's corporate strategies and business plans.

Regional Council, staff and the residents of York Region emphasized that *Vision 2026* should not be 'shelved' but used to guide future initiatives, incorporated into our day-to-day operations, with annual progress reports to the public.

Vision 2026 along with the Region's program-specific strategic plans, e.g. the Regional Official Plan, Greening Strategy, and the Rapid Transit Plan, provide a strong policy basis for sustainable development in the Region.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Vision 2026 is the Region's overarching strategic document and is intended to guide our daily corporate decisions to ensure the Region's high quality of life now and in the future.

This year's *Towards the Vision, Third Annual Report on Indicators of Progress* continues to meet the objectives of reporting on progress to staff, Council and the public and highlights how York Region's corporate decisions support and further the goals of *Vision 2026* through our programs and business areas.

Towards the Vision's indicators are based on information the Region already collects including Key Performance Indicators, mandatory provincial reporting indicators, and information used by the Region such as the Environics Survey.

Endorsed by Council, these indicators are meant to be meaningful and representative, providing a "barometer" of progress.

To date, strategic corporate initiatives like *Understanding Barriers: York Regions First Annual Accessibility Plan*, the draft Economic Development Strategy and *The Profile of York Region's Low Income Population* have used *Vision 2026* as their broad framework.

Over the past two years, the *Vision 2026* team have also been working across the corporation to integrate *Vision 2026* in to the business planning and budget process, and the performance agreement process.

4.1 Are We Making Progress?

Over the last three years, York region has made major headway on a number of *Vision 2026's* Goals. This progress has helped us move forward on action areas that speak to quality of life, environment, economy, growth management, and creating strong caring communities.

Some of the highlights from areas of progress in this third year of reporting include:

Highlights identified in this year's *Towards the Vision* include:

- Launch of Viva.
- Understanding Barriers: York Region's First Annual Accessibility Plan.
- York Region Centres and Corridors Strategy, Making it Happen!
- "The Road to Inclusivity: An Action Plan for York Region".
- "Preventing Homelessness In York Region: Taking the Next Steps".
- York Regional Police increased overall levels of service presence in the community.
- Enhanced accessibility to people with disabilities to regional services, programs and facilities.

- 580 acres of greenlands have been secured since 2001.
- Increased Long Term Care beds from 200 to 232 providing 84,680 facility program days.
- Opened 26 additional, accessible ACL Supportive Housing Units at the Newmarket Health Centre.
- Opened 32 additional long-term care beds at the Newmarket Health Centre.
- Moving towards a target of 50%, the Region has maintained an average diversion rate of 25% and has made major strides in putting programs in place to increase this rate to a projected 29% in 2005.
- Continued high quality of life (91% approval rating by residents).
- Overall satisfaction with York Regional government at 71% from a satisfaction level of 70% in 2003 and 66% in 2002.

However, there is a need to improve our performance in areas where we have influence.

Residents have told us some of the major concerns include congestion, growth management and environment and that they support the Region's efforts in areas like rapid transit and compact urban growth to address these issues. Employers in York Region have told us that diversity, mix and affordability of housing are important for continued economic growth and employment.

In 2005/06, York Region has an ambitious program to address these concerns through effective and timely services to our citizens. Key initiatives include significant public transit improvements, a pro-active roads program to provide better road capacity, more affordable housing options, exploring options to increase the Region's live/work ratio through better job matching, increased diversion of waste away from landfill, and a greener and healthier York Region.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Towards the Vision: Third Annual Report on Indicators of Progress has been completed with existing staff. The budget for the publication, printing and wide distribution of *Towards the Vision: Third Annual Report on Indicators of Progress* is provided for in the Council approved 2005 Business Plan and Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Throughout the *Vision 2026* process, it has been recognized that the area municipalities are key stakeholders in contributing to a collective Vision for York Region's future.

Staff of the area municipalities were consulted on the creation of *Vision 2026* and on the Performance Measures Workbook. We will continue to dialogue with the area municipalities and share information with interested municipal staff.

7. NEXT STEPS

Towards the Vision: Third Annual Report on Indicators of Progress will be made widely available to the public, staff, and stakeholders through mailings and the Region's website.

8. CONCLUSION

Towards the Vision: Third Annual Report on Indicators of Progress is the third in a series of annual reports that strive to communicate our progress towards implementing *Vision 2026*.

Highlights of this year's report include:

- Launch of Viva.
- Understanding Barriers: York Region's First Annual Accessibility Plan.
- York Region Centres and Corridors Strategy, Making it Happen!
- "The Road to Inclusivity: An Action Plan for York Region".
- "Preventing Homelessness In York Region: Taking the Next Steps".
- Continued high quality of life (91% approval rating by residents).
- Overall satisfaction with York Regional government at 71% from a satisfaction level of 70% in 2003 and 66% in 2002.

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The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the Agenda for the April 6, 2005 Committee meeting.)