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TOWARDS THE VISION: SECOND ANNUAL REPORT ON INDICATORS OF PROGRESS FOR THE YEAR 2003 AND ALIGNMENT WORKPLAN UPDATE

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the following:

1. The presentation made by Laura Atkins-Paul, Senior Planner, Long Range and Strategic Planning, be received; and
2. The recommendations contained in the following report, March 25, 2004, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services, be adopted:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

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

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee and Regional Council with:

- *Towards the Vision: Second Annual Report on Indicators of Progress*
- Outline the proposed corporate alignment workplan for *Vision 2026*.

This year's second annual report builds on the first report by providing comparisons of our progress to last year's measures where possible and by listing achievements, innovations and successes under the *Vision 2026* action areas they support.

3. BACKGROUND

Vision 2026 and its annual report *Towards the Vision* has stood the test of time. This year's *Towards the Vision, Second Annual Report on Indicators of Progress* continues to meet the objectives of reporting on progress to staff, Council and the public. This report builds on the model designed by staff and approved by Council in 2002.

Throughout consultation and during the official launch of *Vision 2026* in April of 2002, 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, and that there should be progress reports to the public on a regular basis.

Regional Council directed that these progress reports be submitted on an annual basis. Vision's first annual report on progress, *Towards the Vision* was launched at Regional Council on May 22, 2003.

The first annual *Towards the Vision* made a commitment that the Region would work to further ensure that all its activities, including strategic initiatives, business planning and our individual performance processes will continue to align measuring, monitoring and reporting with future *Vision 2026* annual reports.

Council directed staff to develop an implementation workplan to ensure strategic alignment of *Vision 2026* across the corporation and to report back on progress in the Spring of 2004.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

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

As *Vision 2026's* annual report, *Towards the Vision* provides regular updates on how York Region's corporate decisions are supporting and furthering the goals *Vision 2026*.

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

Over the next year, Vision staff will be working to further align *Vision 2026* through the proposed Corporate Management Framework.

4.1 Towards the Vision: Second Annual Report on Indicators of Progress

Considerable public, staff and Council interest and support has been demonstrated during the development of *Vision 2026* and of the Community Indicators of Progress developed for reporting in *Towards the Vision*. The indicators used in *Towards the Vision* are ones that the Region is already involved in collecting information on, and ones that Council endorsed as being meaningful to the public and stakeholders.

The indicators include the Region's Key Performance Indicators, mandatory provincial reporting indicators, and other information the Region already uses including the Environics Survey.

The first annual report began the process by setting a baseline for future monitoring and measurement of progress in order to report on the Region's progress towards meeting *Vision 2026's* goals.

4.2 Corporate Alignment of Vision 2026

Vision 2026 launched by Council in May of 2002 updates the Region's 1993 *Vision 2021* which in itself led to the creation of 450 new programs and initiatives and laid the foundation for the Region's first Official Plan.

The updated *Vision 2026* was developed to reflect changes and emerging changes in the Region, to recognize the Region's expanded mandate, co-ordinate strategic corporate initiatives, guide business planning in the Region, as well as to provide an opportunity for residents to provide input as a community about what kind of place we want York Region to be.

Vision 2026 was created through extensive consultation and collaboration with Council, staff and the community including organizations, individual citizens and councillors and staff of area municipalities over a two year period. "Help Us Shape York Region's Future" received extensive media coverage through general reporting as well as media partnerships with Metroland Community Newspapers and Rogers Television.

While *Vision 2026* is a community strategy, it also outlines key areas of focus for the Region and its partners over the long term. Its eight goals and approximately 130 action areas set a broad context and framework for more detailed corporate and business plans.

To date, strategic corporate initiatives like *Understanding Barriers: York Regions First Annual Accessibility Plan* and the proposed Economic Development Strategy have used *Vision 2026* as a broad framework to develop these strategic documents.

As a result of consultation and input, Council also committed to reporting annually on the progress made to achieve the intent of *Vision 2026*.

Vision 2026's annual report Towards the Vision was created not only to report on our progress but also highlights the Region's successes and innovations through our various corporate programs and business areas.

Over the past year, linkages have been created between *Vision 2026* and the 2004 Business Plan and Budget and staff Performance Agreements.

In addition, the CAO's office has created a *Vision 2026* Alignment Sub Committee under the Corporate Management Framework Committee to strengthen the linkages to *Vision 2026*, and to determine accountability and associated costs to the Region.

This is proposed to be done over the next year by the cross-departmental *Vision 2026* Alignment Sub Committee by determining where linkages need to occur as follows:

- Incorporate *Vision 2026* into staff Performance Agreements section on employee accomplishments, goals and objectives (non-union employees only).
- Improve Business Planning and Budget process linkages with each of *Vision*'s 8 goal areas.
- Continue development of a *Vision 2026* Corporate Communications Plan and newsletter.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Towards the Vision: Second 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: Second Annual Report on Indicators of Progress* is provided for in the Council approved 2004 Business Plan and Budget.

The benefits of better alignment of *Vision 2026* across the corporation include accountable and identifiable activities that support *Vision 2026* along with associated costing.

5.1 Cost of Implementing Vision 2026

Vision 2026's indicators are broad-based community indicators. The Region has chosen a number of indicators that are representative in nature and provide a barometer of progress.

Since *Vision 2026* is a community wide strategy, the Region is only directly responsible for some of the objectives. Of these, the Region addresses its responsibility through a number of strategies that have been costed, such as the Transportation Master Plan, and the Long Range Water Strategy.

For example, the cost of the Region's Human Services components have been estimated over the next 25 years through the Human Services Planning Coalition.

These financial analyses together constitute a broad estimate of the costs associated with *Vision 2026*.

The *Vision 2026* Alignment Sub Committee is in the process of strengthening Business Plan and Budget linkages.

Under the Corporate Management Framework consideration is being given to updating the Region's 25 year fiscal analysis and instituting longer-range costing in our business planning.

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.

The benefits of better aligning *Vision 2026* include more efficient, accountable service delivery to the residents of York Region.

7. NEXT STEPS

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

Over the next six months, staff will develop a strategy to better align *Vision 2026* across the corporation.

8. CONCLUSION

Towards the Vision: Second Annual Report on Indicators of Progress has been developed through extensive consultation with the public and staff and builds on the monitoring and reporting measures and indicators the Region currently has in place.

We heard from extensive consultation in the development of *Vision 2026* and throughout the progress indicators consultation process that the public, staff and Council wanted regular reports on progress.

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

Alignment of *Vision 2026* across the corporation will assist the Region in aligning its strategic documents and developing multi-year business plans that will ensure corporate integration, implementation and monitoring of *Vision 2026*'s progress indicators, as well as ensure that the Region's activities that support *Vision 2026* are accountable and fiscally responsible.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(A copy of the attachment referred to in the foregoing has been forwarded to each Member of Council with the May 5, 2004 Planning and Economic Development Committee agenda and a copy thereof is on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)