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Library Board Report

To: Newmarket Public Library Board
From: Todd Kyle, C.E.O.
Date: May 15, 2019
RE: **Library facility needs—update**

Background:

In September 2016, the Library Board voted to use existing funds to commission a study on future facility needs and options, pending Town of Newmarket Council support. Motion 16.09.144 read:

...THAT the Library Board apportion up to \$50,000 of the Alternative Service Delivery capital project to a facility needs study, if and when Council indicates its willingness to support it.

In May 2017, Council was asked to endorse such a study, but deferred that until after a pending efficiencies review of library operations was completed. In February 2018, Council approved implementation of the efficiencies study but moved to defer consideration of a facilities study to the 2018-2022 Council Strategic Priority setting process.

Council's Strategic Priorities have now been drafted and approved. Although one pillar, Extraordinary Places and Spaces, does touch on the need for expanded library facilities, the specific project to study the needs and options for a new library does not feature in the 5 actions under this pillar.

In leaving the library out of specific mention in the Priorities, Council commented on the ability of the Library Board to commence such a study on its own. Indeed, the \$50,000 in funds proposed for this study are already in the Library Board's control, and the Director of Finance has confirmed that this purpose is consistent with original approval of the capital reserve.

Discussions with senior Town staff on how best to approach a study are ongoing. It is thought that a collaborative approach would be best, leveraging possibilities for a facility shared with other community uses, and aligning with the Town's goal (and another Strategic Priority) to create vibrant urban corridors along Yonge, Davis, and Mulock. This approach would also give consideration for aligning the planning with the "community benefits" provisions of provincial

planning legislation as it undergoes changes. As well, given that the need for expanded library space has already been established, it might be best to focus the study on a somewhat narrower search for and comparison of existing and potential sites.

Conclusion:

Given the accelerating emphasis on development within the urban corridors, commencing a study of some sort sooner rather than later would be recommended in order to position the Library to be prepared for opportunities. It would also align the Library with the overall Town strategy and facilitate collaboration with the Planning department. At the same time, renewal of current contract resources at the Library would facilitate the increased workload that would occur if a study were to be undertaken. I will keep the Board apprised of the ongoing discussions and will recommend action once the appropriate trigger is reached. Any other feedback that the Board has at this point is welcome.

The following motion is recommended:

THAT the Library Board receive the report on Library Facility Needs—Update.