



Town of Newmarket
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2020 Annual Accessibility Status Update to the 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Staff Report to Council

Report Number: 2021-01

Department(s): Legislative Services

Author(s): Jaclyn Grossi, Legislative Coordinator

Meeting Date: January 11, 2021

Recommendations

1. That the report entitled 2020 Annual Accessibility Status Update to the 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan dated January 11, 2021 be received; and,
2. That the 2020 Accessibility Status Update (**Attachment A**) be approved; and
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to approve and adopt the 2020 Annual Status Update to the 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Background

Ontario municipalities are required to establish, implement, maintain and document a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and provide annual updates on the plan's progress through the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) standard. Council approved the current 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan at their [Council Meeting on October 21, 2019](#), and this report serves to provide the 2020 annual status update to the current multi-year plan.

Discussion

The Town of Newmarket is committed to creating an accessible environment by removing barriers for people of all abilities in our community. This includes Town staff, community and business partners, residents and visitors.

This annual status update was developed with input from staff across the entire Corporation, and the Newmarket Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). The update is broken down by each department in the Corporation to highlight the work they have completed in 2020, and features a section on the annual accomplishments of the AAC.

This year was unique due to the unforeseen COVID-19 pandemic which underscored the value and need for implementing accessibility enhancement projects. Newmarket Council led by example in 2017 when it adopted the Electronic Participation in Meetings Policy for the Accessibility Advisory Committee. While the Committee Members did not use this Policy because of the legislative restrictions regarding quorum and some technical challenges, the processes adopted by the Town for remote meetings has now provided the Committee with an opportunity to fully participate in electronic meetings.

Attachment A details many other additional accessibility enhancements that the Town implemented in 2020 that were new or not contemplated and were a direct result of the pandemic.

Conclusion

As required by the IASR, staff will post the Council approved 2020 Status Update on the Town's website following Council approval.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

This report aligns with Council's Strategic Priority pillar regarding Extraordinary Places and Spaces (priority focus on Mulock Property): Creating an environment for an engaged, accessible and inclusive community, and highlights a list of projects across the Corporation which align with all six pillars of Council's Strategic Priorities. The report also aligns with the Town's vision of being a community that is Well Beyond the Ordinary.

Consultation

Staff from various departments were consulted in the development of the 2020 Accessibility Status Update, primarily through the Accessibility Working Group who were involved in the development of the 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan as well.

The Newmarket Accessibility Advisory Committee was consulted and provided input, and endorsed the 2020 Accessibility Status Update at their November 19, 2020 meeting.

Human Resource Considerations

There are no Human Resources considerations related to this report.

Budget Impact

Costs to implement requirements of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will continue to be addressed by the various responsible departments.

Attachments

Attachment A - 2020 Accessibility Status Update

Approval

Kiran Saini, Deputy Clerk

Lisa Lyons, Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk

Esther Armchuk, Commissioner, Corporate Services

Ian McDougall, Commissioner, Community Services

Peter Noehammer, Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

Jag Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer

Contact

For more information on this report, please contact Jaclyn Grossi, Legislative Coordinator at 905-953-5300 extension 2207 or via email at jgrossi@newmarket.ca

Questions about the individual projects completed within **Attachment A** should be directed to the applicable department.