

INFORMATION NOTE

Title:	Planning St. John's – New Engage St. John's Webpage
Date Prepared:	June 3, 2022
Report To:	Committee of the Whole
Councillor and Role:	Councillor Ian Froude, Planning
Ward:	N/A

Issue:

To make Council and the public aware of a new *Planning St. John's* page on the Engage St. John's site.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

Staff have heard from the public that it can be difficult find all the relevant information about amendment applications on the City's website. Generally, the information is found in Council's Committee of the Whole or Regular Council Meeting agendas, as well as under Public Notices on the City's website. However, in particular for Municipal Plan amendments, the application goes to Council at four different stages (to consider the amendment, adoption-in-principle prior to provincial review, adoption and then final approval). The public would need to know the dates that the application went to a Council meeting in order to find the information. As a means to place all of the information regarding Municipal Plan and Development Regulations amendments (including rezonings) in one place, the City has created a new Planning St. John's webpage which will be found on the Engage St. John's site:

www.engagestjohns.ca/planning.

This is a one-year pilot project and staff will evaluate over the year how frequently the site is being used and if users find it useful. The site will be limited to planning applications such as rezonings and text amendments and will not include development applications, discretionary use applications, or non-conforming use applications.

The Planning St. John's page will be the main page and will include links to current applications. The page will only include new applications starting in June 2022 and will not include any applications that were active prior to June 2022.

The site will also provide an alternative means for the public to provide feedback on planning applications. There are sections where they can either ask a question or provide a comment on the application. The question section will be open for the whole time while the application is active, however the comments section will only be open during the public consultation period (usually about 3 weeks) in order to make sure all of comments are accounted for when the application is brought back to Council for consideration. While the public may leave a comment

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or ask a question on the engage page, we will continue to accept feedback through the City Clerk's Office via mail or email.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: Not applicable.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: The general public; Municipal Plan and Development Regulations amendment applicants.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions:

A Sustainable City: Plan for land use and preserve and enhance the natural and built environment where we live.

A Connected City: Increase and improve opportunities for residents to connect with each other and the City.
4. Alignment with Adopted Plans: Public engagement requirements in the St. John's Municipal Plan and Development Regulations.
5. Legal or Policy Implications: Not applicable.
6. Privacy Implications: Not applicable.
7. Engagement and Communications Considerations: The new Planning St. John's page will add a different form of engagement opportunity for planning applications. The Marketing and Communications Division will promote the new page.
8. Human Resource Implications: Not applicable.
9. Procurement Implications: Not applicable.
10. Information Technology Implications: Not applicable.
11. Other Implications: Not applicable.

Conclusion/Next Steps:

To promote the new Planning St. John's webpage and provide Council with an evaluation following the one-year pilot project.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Planning St. John's - New Engage St. John's Webpage.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 7, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Ken O'Brien - Jun 7, 2022 - 2:19 PM

Jason Sinyard - Jun 7, 2022 - 3:18 PM