

LOOKING BACK, THINKING AHEAD:

# Victoria's Local Area Planning Program



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## Purpose

- Present lessons learned from recent local area planning processes
- Successes and challenges
- Inform the next phase of local area planning

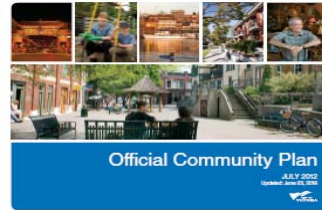


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# Background

- OCP provides long-term vision for the city
- OCP envisioned local area planning focused on areas of growth, as tool for implementation
- Local area plans to provide more detail on how citywide directions can come alive in local context



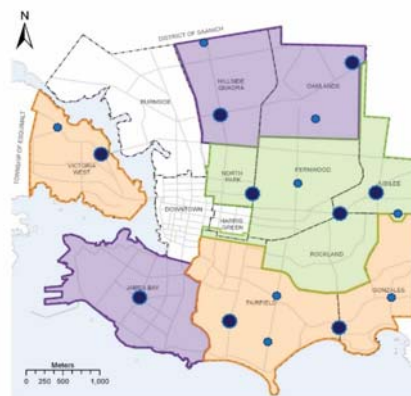
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# Background

## Accelerated Local Area Planning:

- Council directed staff to examine ways to accelerate local area planning
- New program was designed with an aim to update plans over 3 years
- 12 months per phase



Phase 1
Phase 2
Phase 3
● Large Urban Village / Town Centre
● Small Urban Village



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## Lessons Learned

### Common Themes:

1. Scope and purpose
2. Public engagement
3. Process and timelines



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## Lessons Learned: Scope

1. Clarify city-wide vision and goals
  - Purpose and link to other city-wide objectives was not always clear to participants
  - Need to communicate more clearly at outset to ensure efficient and meaningful process
2. Focus topics for manageable scope
  - Participants were most interested in:
    - ✓ infill housing
    - ✓ corridors and villages (character, scale, public realm)
    - ✓ transportation (safety, choice)
    - ✓ parks
    - ✓ amenities

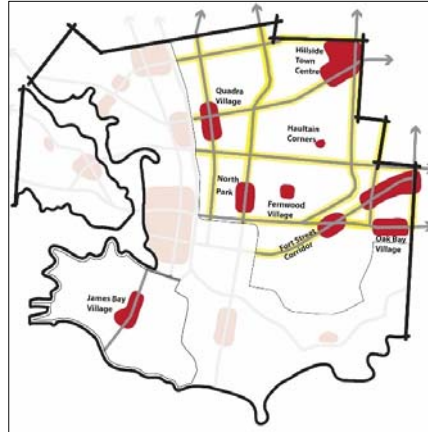


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## Applying the Lessons

- Focus on areas expecting growth and change
- Integrated planning for land use, transportation, urban design and public realm
- Place-based scope where people live, work, play
- Separate process for “missing middle” housing



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## Lessons Learned: Engagement

1. Desire for data and trends
2. Align engagement with other City initiatives
3. Diversity is strength
  - Broaden engagement
4. Community champions key to success
  - Leaders in the community
  - Representing diversity of viewpoints
5. Build on successful meeting and event formats



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## Successful Event Formats



“Now, Wow, How”



Design Charrettes



Storefront Pin-Up



Walk Shops



Pizza & a Planner



Community Hosted Events



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## Applying the Lessons

- Use a **storytelling** approach
- **Communicate data** and show links to decision-making
- Expand efforts to **attract diverse stakeholders and participants**
- Include **successful event formats** and opportunities for community-led events
- Use **charrettes** for key issues, with robust participation and transparent connections larger public events



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## Lessons Learned: Process & Time

1. Incorporate implementation into process
  - OCP amendments (and required consultation)
  - Design guidelines
  - New zoning regulations
2. Community-led committees formed late, in reaction to key interest areas
3. Ensure realistic timelines for engagement
4. Clear mandate for working groups
  - Advisory role on policy development and plan content vs focus on engagement and networking



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## Applying the Lessons

- Ensure a **scope that is clear** with a limited number of topics over which local area plans have influence
- Undertake **key implementation actions** concurrent with plan development
- Focus working group on the **charrette process** with strong connection to pre-charrette and post charrette events
- Support opportunities for **community-initiated groups** coming together earlier



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## Next Steps

- Lessons learned will inform the next phases of local area planning
- Staff will bring forward a proposed approach for the next phase in October 2019
- Report will include terms of reference for grant funding to community associations for community-led work to support local area planning



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## Recommendation

That Council receive the report for information.



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