

People Parks & Pups



NEW WESTMINSTER

ON TABLE
City Council Meeting
December 13, 2021
re: Item 3.2.a.

CNW COUNCIL PRESENTATION 2021.12.13

PROJECT PURPOSE

The City of New Westminster is taking a new, proactive approach to planning for dogs.

The City is seeking ways to provide adequate space for dogs while balancing the many other (and often competing) recreational needs within the community.

The following themes provide the framework for the Strategy:

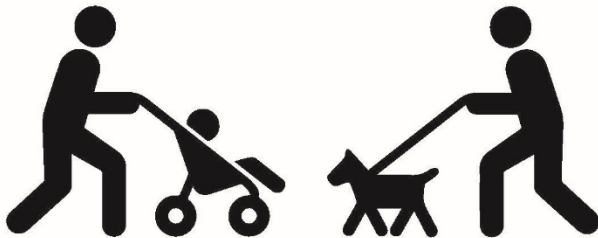
- **assessing need**
- **designating space**
- **attracting use**
- **managing use**
- **working together**

DEMAND FOR OFF-LEASH AREAS IS RISING

~42% of households
with children*

=

~41% of households
with dogs**



*STATISTICS CANADA (2016)

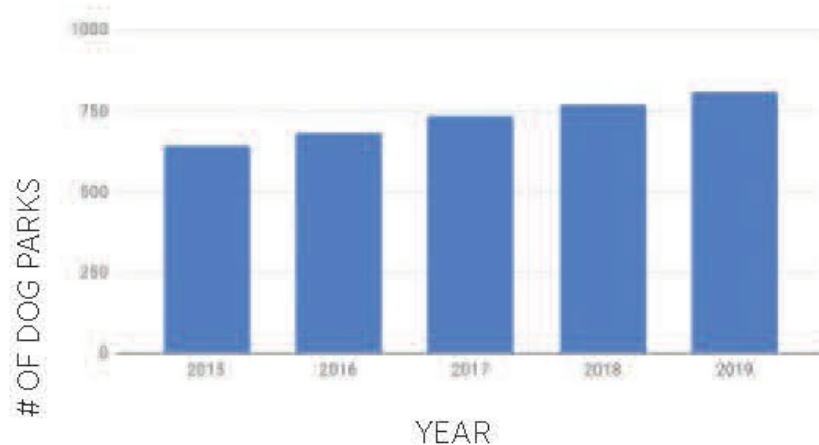
**CANADIAN ANIMAL HEALTH INSTITUTE SURVEY (2018)

Estimates suggest the number of Canadian households with dogs is roughly equal to the number of households with children.

STATISTICS CANADA 2016 DATA AND CANADIAN ANIMAL HEALTH INSTITUTE SURVEY 2018

DEMAND FOR OFF-LEASH AREAS IS RISING

U.S. DOG PARK GROWTH 2015-2019



Dog off-leash areas are among “the fastest growing park amenities” across the 100 largest US cities:

- **25% INCREASE** in number of dog parks over the past 5 years
- **74% INCREASE** in number of dog parks over the past 10 years

ENGAGEMENT

**PHASE 1:
257 'BE HEARD'
CONTRIBUTORS**

**2 OPEN HOUSE LAUNCH
EVENTS WITH SMALL
GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

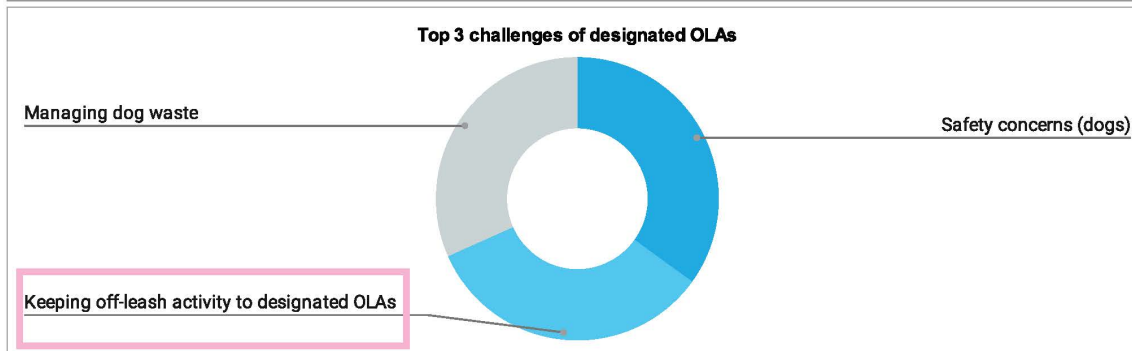
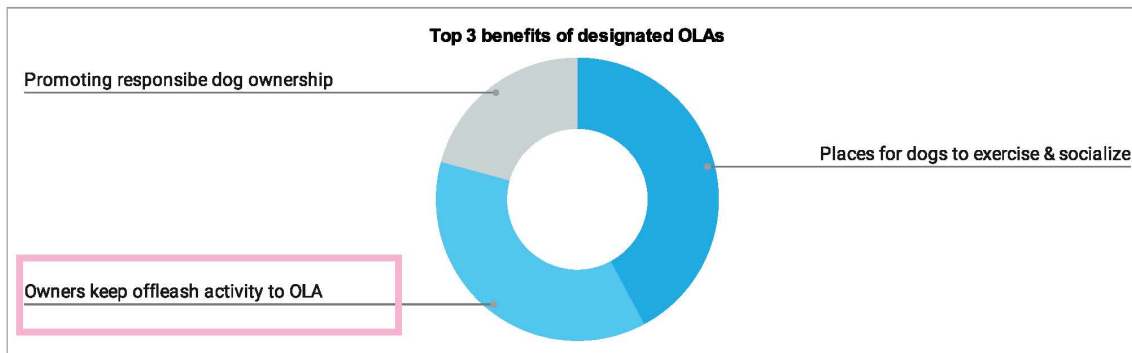
**PHASE 2:
137 'BE HEARD'
CONTRIBUTORS**

**ADVISORY GROUP
MEETINGS**

**2 CNW STAFF
WORKSHOPS**

**INPUT FROM FIPR
TASK FORCE AND FIPR
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES



THE BENEFIT OF HAVING DESIGNATED AREAS FOR OFF LEASH ACTIVITY, AND THE CHALLENGE OF KEEPING IT THERE!

DEVELOPING A STRATEGY

Well designed and well located dog off-leash areas can make New Westminster's parks better for all users.

DESIGNATING SPACE

-  TYPOLOGIES
- DISTRIBUTION
- ADJACENCIES

ATTRACTING USE



- AMENITIES
- SURFACING
- VEGETATION
- BOUNDARIES
- SIGNAGE

MANAGING OPERATIONS



- LICENSING
- WASTE MANAGEMENT
- MAINTENANCE
- EVALUATION

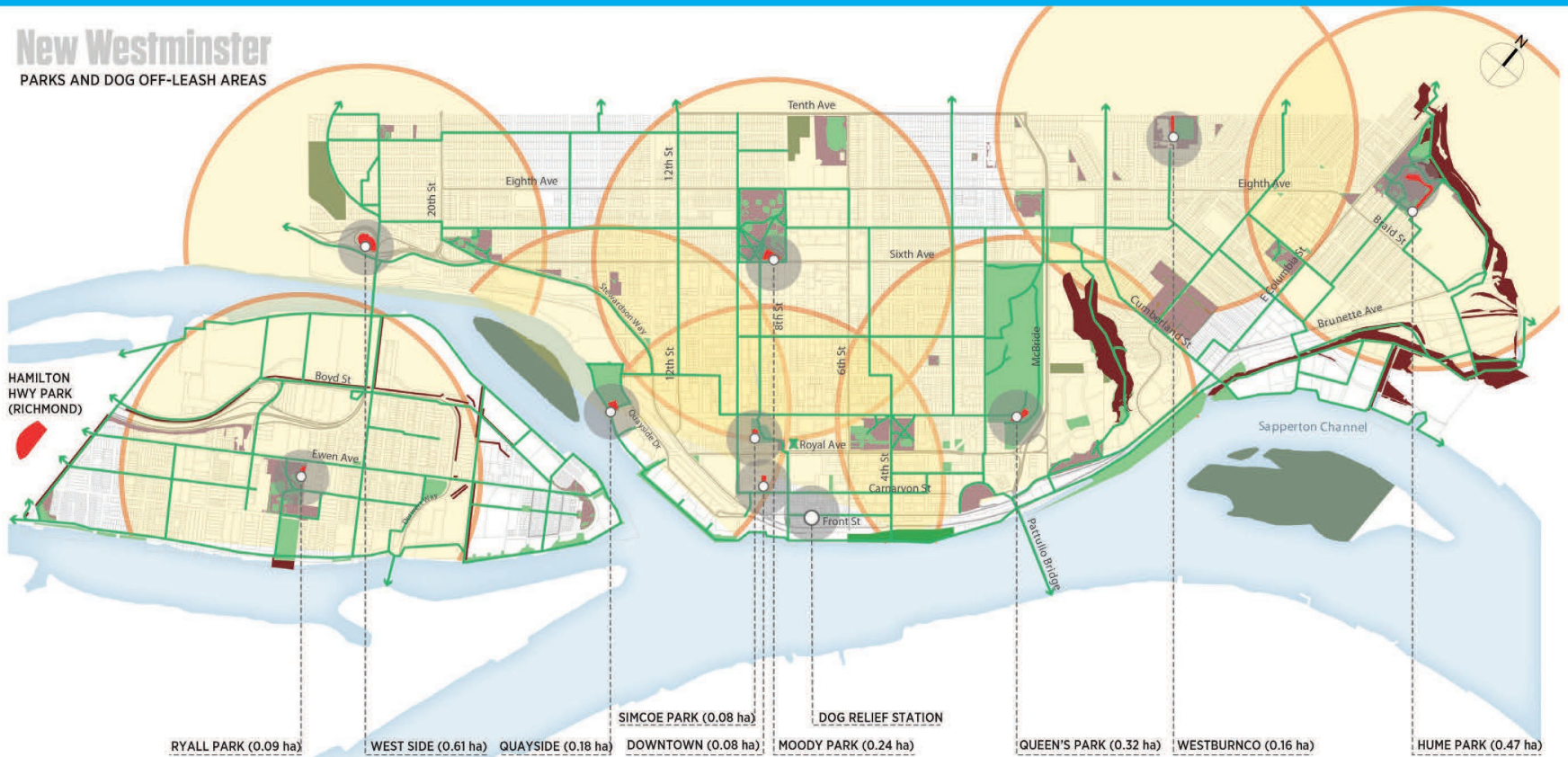
WORKING TOGETHER



- STEWARDSHIP
- FUNDING
- EDUCATION

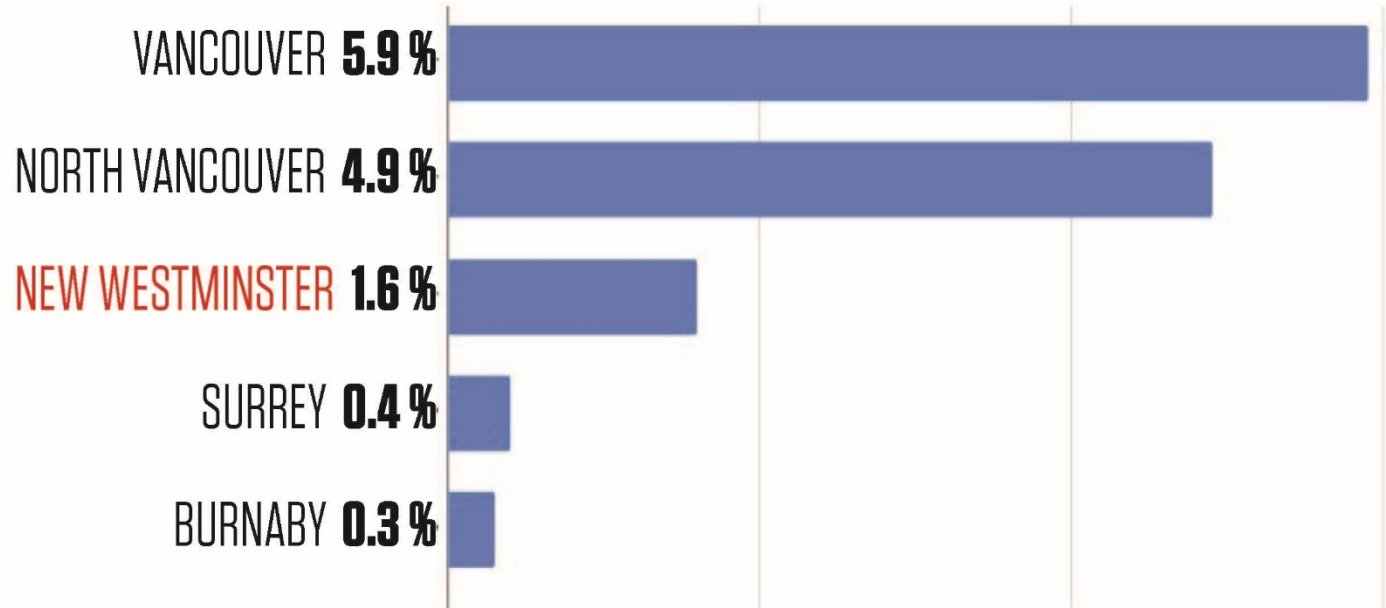
EXISTING OLAs

New Westminster PARKS AND DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS



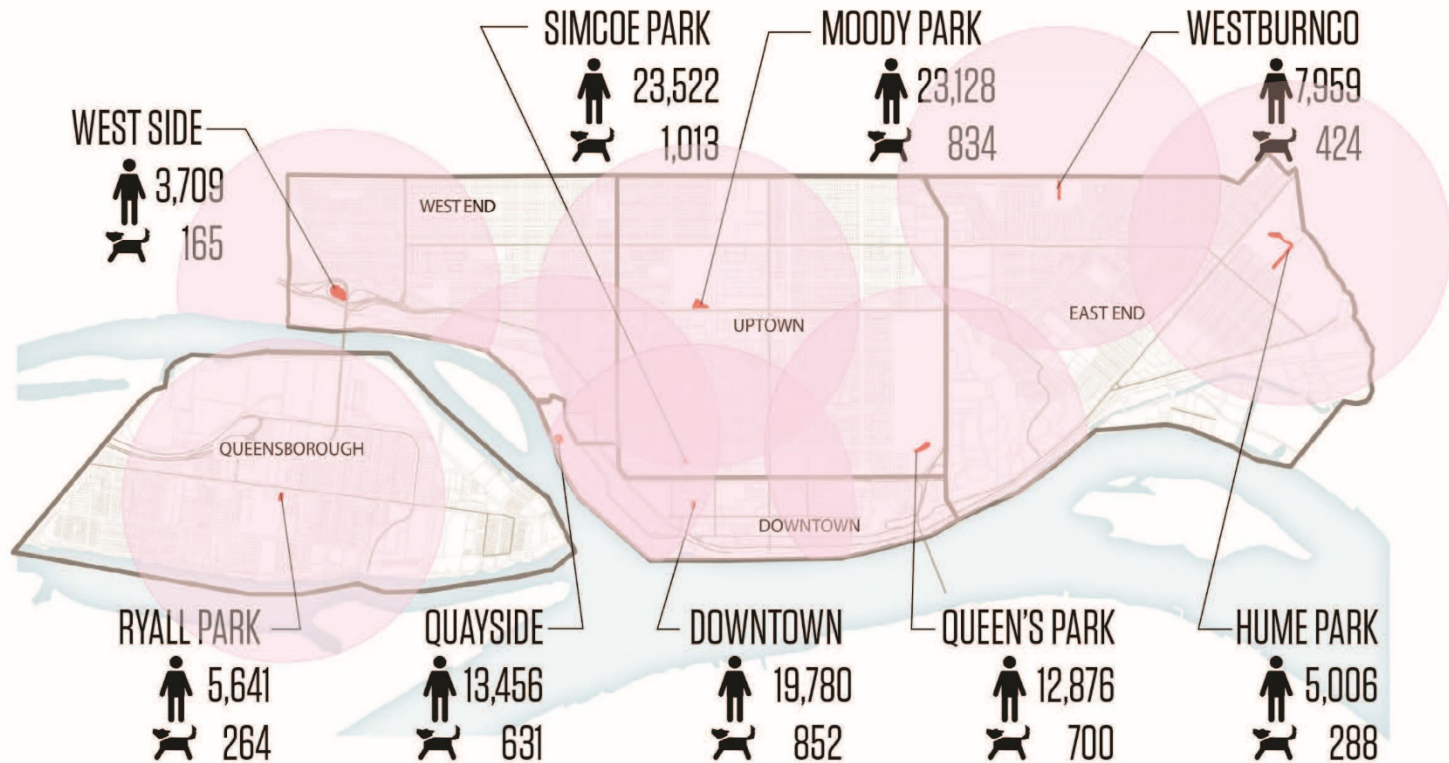
% PARK AREA DESIGNATED OFF-LEASH USE

HECTARES



ANALYSIS

2016 CENSUS DATA + 2020 DOG LICENSING + 1KM SERVICE RADIUS



TYPOLOGIES

- **PARK OLA**

THESE SUPPLEMENT
PARK OLAS, THEY DON'T
REPLACE THEM!

FOR HIGH DENSITY
AREAS WHERE PARK
SPACE IS LIMITED

- **DOG PARKLET**

CAN HELP MANAGE
WASTE

CAN HELP ANIMATE THE
PUBLIC REALM

A PILOT PROJECT FOR THE
AGNES STREET GREENWAY

IMPROVES ACCESS, AND
FILLS THE 'GAPS' BETWEEN
PARK OLAS

PARK OLA



Surfacing: fine gravel, wood chips and/or grass

Logs and boulders

Double-gated, accessible entry

Seating

Entry signage

Drinking water for dogs

Secure fencing, min 1.2m height

Maintenance vehicle access gate

GRAVEL SURFACING CAN HURT PAWS

FOUNTAINS FOR DOGS ONLY PLEASE!

SIZE	SURFACING	STANDARD AMENITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimum 0.08 ha (approx. two basketball courts), ideally 0.4 ha (approx. softball field) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mix of surfaces including fine gravel, wood chips and grass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • open space, shade, seating, boulders and logs, drinking water for dogs, dog waste bins
ACCESS	FENCING	SPECIAL AMENITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA-compliant double-gated entry, paved paths to accessible seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • full fence enclosure, min 1.2m height 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lighting*, separated small dog areas* water for dog play, drinking fountains, agility features, paved looped paths for OLAs > 0.4ha.

DOG PARKLET



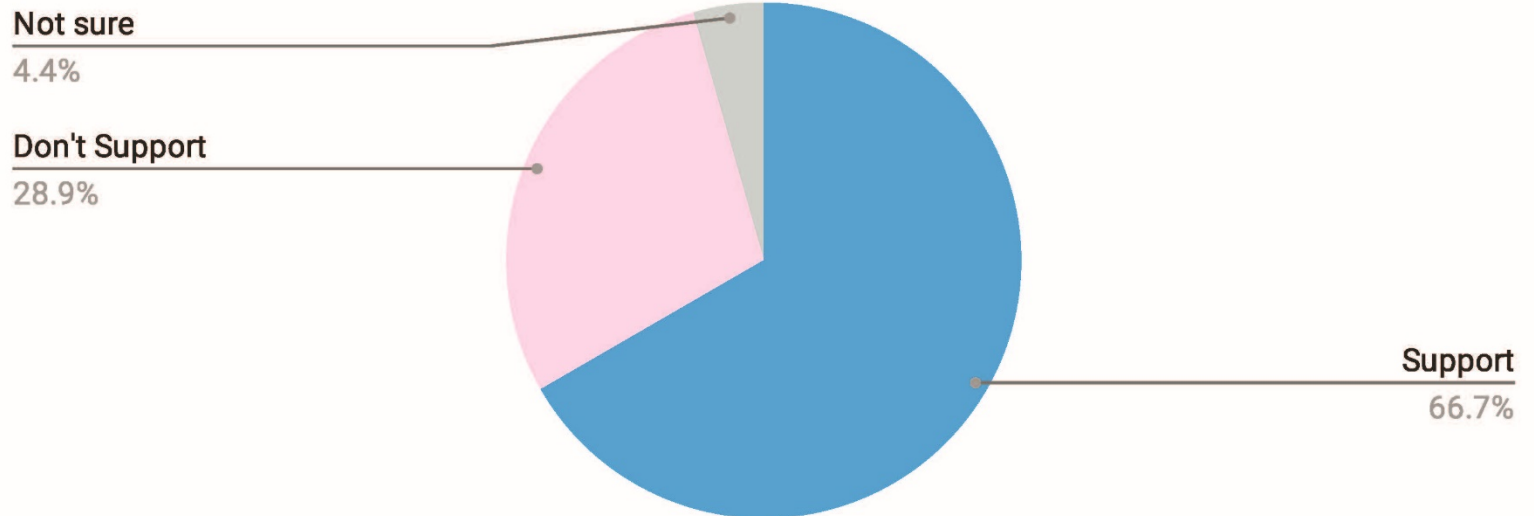
SIZE	SURFACING	STANDARD AMENITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimum 2 parking stalls in length, ideally 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • durable surfacing suitable for regular washing (e.g. synthetic turf, pour-in-place rubber) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas to sit or lean, water access with a hose for washing down, drainage to accommodate regular washing, agility feature / engaging element, dog waste bins
ACCESS	FENCING	SPECIAL AMENITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA-compliant gated entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • full fence enclosure, min 1.2m height • provide clear sightlines into the enclosure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water for dog play, water for drinking, additional agility features, shade / canopy, seating.

SHARED USE PARKS

OPINIONS ARE MIXED

RESIDENTS HAVE EXPRESSED
SAFETY CONCERNS

Support for a one year pilot project to test designated off leash hours within parks and along trails in in Downtown and Queenborough area



SHARED USE RECOMMENDATION

Shared Use of parks and trails is not supported by the community at this time; survey respondents indicated a variety of safety concerns, and FIPR AC members anticipate significant conflict.

"IT'S WORTH A TRY AND THEN REVISIT ONCE MORE IS KNOWN"

"I DO NOT FEEL SAFE AROUND DOGS THAT ARE OFF LEASH"

"PEOPLE ENJOYING NEARBY AREAS WILL BE AT RISK"

"WORRY ABOUT CHILDREN'S SAFETY"

"DOING THIS AS A PILOT PROJECT IS A GOOD IDEA TO SEE HOW THIS MAY WORK"

RECOMMENDATIONS

DESIGNATING SPACE



Prioritize **UNDER-SERVED** areas when establishing new OLA space, based on an evaluation of current and projected population densities and dog license data.

ATTRACTING USE



Introduce the city's first **DOG PARKLET** along the Agnes Street Greenway and monitor its success for 6 -12 months before implementing any others.

MANAGING OPERATIONS



Identify high, medium and low priority **IMPROVEMENTS FOR EACH OLA** with an implementation plan that includes target timelines and resource planning.

WORKING TOGETHER



Initiate a stewardship program for community members, local businesses and other organizations to **ADOPT** an OLA.

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

- Would you like to know more about the **PROCESS** that informed this Strategy?
- Do you have feedback on any of the **RECOMMENDATIONS**?
- Are there any **QUESTIONS** about the Strategy that we can help clarify?

NEXT STEPS

Pending Council's feedback on the draft Strategy, a final version of the document will be brought back to Council for adoption in early 2022 and subsequent implementation later that year.

THANK YOU!