

Update: ELEVATE Initiative

Initiative Title: ELEVATE
City Council Lead(s): Councillor B. Esslinger / Councillor M. Walters
Department Lead(s): Citizen Services, R. Smyth / J. Araujo

Recommendation - Renew for 2017-2021 Council Term

Objective

The ELEVATE Initiative is a vision for school boards and different orders of government to work with citizens to create strong and sustainable neighbourhoods.

Key outcomes, projects or activities and their status as of May 2017

ELEVATE Memorandum of Understanding

Additional wording to describe the Provincial role will be proposed by the Province and is required prior to Memorandum of Understanding sign off.

Alberta Education

Alberta Education is working with Dr. Bev Sandalack of the University of Calgary to conduct research looking at the causes and consequences of depopulation of urban schools in Edmonton and Calgary and possible mitigation strategies. Findings and recommendations within this report may be used to inform future ELEVATE joint strategies, priorities and action plans.

Project Updates

1. Beverly Area Pilot Project: Rundle School

- When the new Ivor Dent school opens in the fall of 2017, Lawton, R.J. Scott and Rundle schools will discontinue school programming. Edmonton Public Schools will maintain ownership of the Rundle school site and transform it into a hub that will facilitate services and programming within the Beverly community.
- Between January and April 2017, Beverly community members were engaged by a team lead by EPSB on the Rundle site. Engagement results indicated support for the Rundle School building to facilitate activities and services, such as adult learning, arts, music, dance, community, social events, cultural and language programming, indigenous community programs, recreational activities, seniors activities and supports to families.

- In addition to the community engagement, ELEVATE staff met with residents of Beverly who indicated they would like to bring together an inclusive group of stakeholders in their neighbourhoods to create a broad community vision.
- The Beverly residents are planning to hold a community visioning session in September 2017 to explore future strategies and solutions to address the broader needs of citizens in these neighbourhoods.

2. West 1 Pilot Project

- In early 2016, EPSB announced they were initiating a community engagement process in “West One” to explore options for school consolidations.
- In March 2017, citizens were invited to share their feedback on the future of public schools in the communities of Britannia, Westlawn and Rosslyn. These consultations built on the feedback and ideas from previous public meetings held in 2016 with the City of Edmonton and Edmonton Public Schools.
- After the feedback process and results have been analyzed, the initial recommendations to the Board of Trustees will be included in the Edmonton Public School Board’s request for funding from the Alberta Government in the Edmonton Public School Board’s 2018-2021 three-year Capital Plan.

3. 101 Ave Corridor and Vision Study

- Residents living in Capilano, Gold Bar, Forest/Terrace Heights and Fulton Place formed the Greater Hardisty Community Sustainability Coalition in 2013 to respond to school closures, a lack of affordable housing for families and seniors, and a loss of amenities and services in their neighbourhood.
- Community members identified 101 Avenue as a street in need of revitalization. Through the public consultation process in May 2016, citizens and area residents were able to provide significant input into the 101 Avenue Corridor study, in response to identified community needs.
- The 101 Avenue Corridor Study will be presented to the Urban Planning Committee on July 5th.

4. Aster Community Hub

- In early 2017, the City of Edmonton was approached by local developer regarding the proposed development of a 13 hectare community hub.
- The proposed hub could contain commercial space, residential townhouses and apartments, school(s) and community space (buildings and green space).
- The Aster community hub information has been shared with all three school jurisdictions to determine if there is interest in exploring this city

development in the form of an ELEVATE pilot initiative. This could serve to explore innovative opportunities for how community sites/hubs may be owned, managed, partnered, designed, financed and redeveloped over time to meet the broader needs of a community.

Future Steps

Develop joint recommendations with other jurisdictions and key community stakeholders.

Develop formal communications planning, processes, channels, to create a systematic approach to open communications.

Evaluation

With City Council's approval of the ELEVATE Memorandum of Understanding in March of 2017, the work of ELEVATE is ongoing and should continue.