

ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO BLATCHFORD DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AUDIT

Recommendation

That the April 15, 2024, Integrated Infrastructure Services report IIS02384, be received for information.

Requested Action	Information only		
ConnectEdmonton's Guiding Principle	ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals		
CONNECTED This unifies our work to achieve our strategic goals.	Urban Places		
City Plan Values	LIVE		
City Plan Big City Move(s)	A community of communities	Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities	Conditions for service success
Corporate Business Plan	Transforming the future		
Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City Plan Edmonton Community Energy Transition Strategy Blatchford Vision 		
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IIS01335, Progress Land Development at Blatchford, Executive Committee, October 12, 2022 IIS01544, Blatchford Business Case Goals, Executive Committee, October 13, 2023 		

Executive Summary

- Administration accepts the recommendations in the Blatchford Development Performance Management Audit.
- This report provides additional context on the Blatchford Development history and information on how Administration plans to progress the Auditors' recommendations.

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REPORT

City Council approved the Area Redevelopment Plan for the Blatchford site in 2012 with the vision of becoming a place where up to 30,000 Edmontonians live, work and learn.

Blatchford was envisioned as a sustainable community that:

- uses 100 per cent renewable energy,
- is carbon neutral,
- significantly reduces its ecological footprint and
- empowers residents to pursue a range of sustainable lifestyle choices.

In 2014, Council approved the Blatchford business case to support the vision. As part of the business case, goals were established, as categorized in the Auditor's report. For a number of the initial targets identified, the business case explained that achieving these targets is dependent on future market conditions and further analysis; therefore, adjustments were anticipated with time. The business case also established that a number of the goal targets were long-term and are anticipated to be met through the full phased build-out of the entire community.

Administration provides updates to Council and the public. Where necessary, updates to Council and Committees of Council include required adjustments to the initial goals and targets that have progressed and evolved based on shifting market conditions while holding true to the vision for Blatchford.

Administration will establish a performance management process as indicated in the Auditor's report. Through the work with the Auditor's office for this audit, Administration has also identified that a number of the noted measures are integral and foundational requirements of the development, while some measures are targeted goals expected to be achieved closer to the full buildout of Blatchford. As such, some measures may be more qualitative than quantitative and may not have tangible results to report on until the full buildout phases for Blatchford are achieved. Established measures need to be feasible, meaningful and within Administration's control to evaluate development progress and success. Administration is also determining enhancements to support transparency to Council and the public as the Blatchford development progresses.

Administration accepted all of the Auditor's recommendations and set implementation timelines.

GBA+

Blatchford's holistic vision for community development prioritizes inclusivity and diversity by taking into account the needs of all Edmontonians, including walkability, transit accessibility, affordable housing, newcomer health supports, and open space design with the overarching goal of ensuring safety and wellbeing for everyone. By integrating GBA+ principles into community planning, Blatchford aims to create a welcoming environment, accommodating people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. By specifically addressing housing affordability, especially for newcomers, along with necessary support services, Blatchford will foster a sense of belonging and overall community well-being.