



# Governance & Services Committee

**TO:** Governance and Services Committee

**FROM:** Todd Cashin  
Director of Community Services

**DATE:** November 12, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Regional Growth Strategy Five-Year Review (6430-40)

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**Purpose:** To provide the Governance and Services Committee with an overview of the consultation process for the consideration of a Five-year Review of the Regional Growth Strategy.

## Executive Summary:

The RDCO adopted Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Bylaw No. 1336 in 2014. The Priority Projects Plan, a five-year action plan that outlines the priority initiatives, was endorsed by the Regional Board on July 24, 2017.

The Priority Projects Plan identified a Five-year review project, and as mandated under the *Local Government Act* (LGA), which would consider whether or not a review of the RGS would be warranted. Given that five years have passed since the RGS was adopted the Regional Board will need to consider if a review is necessary. Further, the LGA requires that an opportunity for input be provided on the need for review.

To inform this decision, a consultation plan (attached) has been developed to gather input from member municipalities, First Nations, government agencies and the public.

## RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT** the Governance and Services Committee receive for information the November 12, 2020 Regional Growth Strategy 5-year Review report from the Director of Community Services;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the Governance and Services Committee recommends the Regional Board endorse the Regional Growth Strategy 5-Year Review Consultation Plan.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Todd Cashin  
Director of Community Services

Approved for Committee's Consideration

  
Brian Reardon, CAO

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## Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Considering the need for a review of the RGS is supported by RDCO's mission and enables the Board to evaluate the need for a review as it relates to the strategic priorities and actions identified in the Regional Board Strategic Priorities 2019-2022.
Policy:	Considering the need for a review of the RGS complies with Section 4 – Monitoring and Evaluation outlined in the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1336.
Legal/Statutory Authority:	<p>Considering the need for a review of the RGS adheres to Local Government Act, Section 452(2) and (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “At least once every 5 years, a regional district that has adopted a regional growth strategy must consider whether the regional growth strategy must be reviewed for possible amendment.”</li> <li>• For the purposes of subsection (2), the regional district must provide an opportunity for input on the need for review from the persons, organizations and authorities referred to in section 434(2) <i>[required consultations during development of regional growth strategy]</i>.</li> </ul>

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## Background:

### Local Government Act

The Regional District has a statutory obligation under Section 452(2) and (3) of the *Local Government Act* (LGA) to consider, at least once every five years, whether the RGS should be reviewed for possible amendment and to provide opportunity for public input into the need for review. This requirement provides an opportunity for the Regional District to periodically assess the RGS and gather feedback from stakeholders to determine if a review of the RGS is warranted. A review can range from a minor amendment to the existing strategy to a comprehensive review.

### Regional Growth Strategy

The RDCO adopted Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Bylaw No. 1336 on June 23, 2014. A regional growth strategy is a long-range planning tool governed by Part 13 of the *Local Government Act* that assists local governments to plan a coordinated future for their communities while dealing with regional issues and decisions that cross local political boundaries. The RGS is also a collective vision from the regional partners for the future in order to create a region that promotes growth that is economically, environmentally and socially healthy over a twenty (20) year time horizon.

### Our Home, Our Future Implementation

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the RGS, through a collaborative process, RDCO staff, RGS Steering Committee and elected officials developed the RGS Priority Projects Plan, a 5-year action plan to outline the priority initiatives to implement the RGS. A Five-year Review was identified as a project in the RGS Priority Projects Plan.

### Consultation Plan:

A consultation plan has been developed (attached) which will provide an opportunity for input from the public, affected local governments, First Nations, provincial ministries and agencies, other levels of government, and stakeholder groups on the need for a review of the RGS.

This may include anyone affected by the RGS and those with an interest in regional growth management and community sustainability. Input received through this process will be provided to the Regional Board.

**Financial Considerations:**

Implementation of the consultation plan will have minimal financial implications. Expenses associated with advertising for the public meeting will be incurred and have been budgeted for in the Community Services general operating budget.

**Legal/ Statutory Authority:**

The provision for the review of a regional growth strategy is contained in Part 13 – Regional Growth Strategies and Section 452 of the *Local Government Act*.

**Organizational Issues:**

Implementation of the consultation plan will be completed by RDCO Planning staff.

**External Implications:**

Anyone affected or perceived to be affected by the RGS will have an opportunity to provide input. Prior to determining whether or not to undertake a review of the RGS, input received from the consultation process will be presented in a report to the Board for consideration.

***Considerations not applicable to this report:***

- *Alternative Recommendation*

**Attachment(s):**

- Consultation Plan – Consideration of a Review of *Our Home, Our Future*