

# Purpose, Scope and Linkages

## 2



### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Official Community Plan is to provide a framework for decisions on planning and land use management at the local government level. Under the Local Government Act, an official community plan must include policies on topics that are central to land use, like housing and **infrastructure**<sup>1</sup>, while related policy areas, such as **community well-being** and the economy, are optional considerations.

The OCP is not the only plan that the City approves and updates but it has the highest legal status. The OCP is adopted as a City **bylaw** and the Local Government Act requires that all subsequent bylaws enacted and works undertaken must be consistent with it. The OCP has a scope broader than the minimum legal requirements and contains a number of new policy areas including **emergency management** and **food systems**. The OCP provides policy direction to City departments whose activities have, or may have, an impact on present and future development in Victoria. In the hierarchy of City plans the OCP plays a guiding role with linkages described below.

### SCOPE

An OCP is a statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management within the geographic boundaries of a local government. This plan covers mandatory requirements and related topics optional under the Local Government Act, as summarized below in Figure 1.

The Local Government Act also enables and permits an OCP to contain objectives and policies on non-specified aspects of planning and land use management whose regulation is within the purview of the City's legal authority. For example, this plan provides policy directions for form, character, exterior design and landscaping as appropriate to development permit areas and heritage conservation areas [SEE SECTION 8 – PLACEMAKING]. As a whole, the plan provides a framework to shape and guide present and proposed development in Victoria towards long term goals for achieving a more sustainable community by 2041 [SEE SECTION 3 – VISION, VALUES AND GOALS].

<sup>1</sup> DEFINITIONS FOR WORDS THAT APPEAR IN BLUE ARE FOUND IN THE GLOSSARY OF TERMS IN APPENDIX D.

Figure 1: Plan Sections and OCP Requirements

PLAN SECTIONS  OCP LEGAL REQUIREMENTS	LAND MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY	PLACEMAKING	PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	INFRASTRUCTURE	CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY	HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS	ECONOMY	COMMUNITY WELL- BEING	FOOD SYSTEMS	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
	REQUIRED											
Residential development												
Affordable housing, rental housing and special needs housing												
Commercial, industrial, institutional, agricultural, recreational and public utility land uses												
Public facilities including schools, parks and waste treatment and disposal sites												
Use of land with hazardous conditions, or that is environmentally sensitive to development												
Major road, sewer and water infrastructure systems												
Greenhouse gas emissions												
OPTIONAL												
Social well-being, social needs and social development												
Natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity												
Farming in areas designated for agricultural use												

## PLAN LINKAGES

The OCP provides the highest level of direction in the hierarchy of City plans and policies. All plans, policies and bylaws should be consistent with the OCP, or be made consistent with it over time. Council has approved a variety of planning documents that address a variety of scales, timeframes, and scopes of concern relevant to planning and land use management. Section 18 – Plan Administration, includes objectives and policies respecting the consistency of other City plans, policies and regulations with this plan.

To provide clarity with respect to OCP consistency requirements, Figure 2 summarizes the content and linkages between the OCP and these other planning documents. OCP directions are achieved through citywide plans with a narrow focus, such as transportation and mobility, through comprehensive and integrated planning at the local area scale, and through the application of the City's spending and regulatory authority.

**Figure 2: Plan Linkages**

Plan Type	Purpose	Scale/Scope	Method of Adoption	Timeframe
Sustainability Framework	Very long term vision and goals for a sustainable community that provides a umbrella framework for City plans and corporate activities.	Citywide	Resolution	100 years
Official Community Plan	Policy framework to move towards a sustainable community through planning and land use management.	Citywide	Bylaw	30 years
Corporate Strategic Plan	Vision and goals of Council and City business operations.	Corporate	Resolution	3 years
Master Plans	Comprehensive plans for citywide topics or service delivery areas such as transportation.	Citywide	Resolution	Variable
Local Area Plans	Implements OCP direction at the local scale while responding to local context	Local area/ neighbourhood	Resolution	Aligned with the term of the OCP
Strategies and Action Plans	Action oriented plans for defined policy areas such as homelessness and climate change.	Citywide	Resolution	Variable
Policies	Guidance that addresses gaps in existing plans, pilots new initiatives, or responds to emerging situations.	Various	Resolution	Variable
Financial Plan	Detailed plan that guides the implementation of the capital budget and the operating budget.	Corporate	Bylaw	5 years
Capital Budget	Funding and spending on capital investment in physical assets that support City operations.	Corporate	Resolution	20 years
Operating Budget	Funding and spending to operate City departments.	Corporate	Resolution	5 years
Regulatory Bylaws	Regulations that govern public and private activities within areas of municipal jurisdiction, including such things as land use, building, subdivision and development, nuisance, business licensing, and animal control.	Various	Bylaw	Continuous