



Winners and commendations

Judges comments

Commonwealth Association of Planners Award for outstanding Planning for the climate emergency award;

Winner

City of Calgary Biodiverse Communities Initiative



- The Habitat Restoration Manual seeks 'to provide consistent processes for staff and the Community Involvement Guide to support The City of Calgary towards its strategic goal to restore 20 percent of Calgary's open space by 2025'.

- A great example of better connecting the science of climate change with built environment professionals and the wider community
- The panel considered this initiative and process could be more widely applied throughout the commonwealth with great benefit
- Community engagement and behavioural change are key elements to this initiative and important to achieving action on climate change
- A range of tools and scenarios are provided with emphasis on understanding and appropriately working with the community
- The project met a number of the SDGs on sustainability

Commendation- Nova Scotia Municipal Flood Line Mapping Project

- The project aims 'to build local-level capacity and resilience to climate impacts, through knowledge, inclusion, education, access to data, communication and comprehensive land use planning'.
- The Project provides standards and guidance to help municipalities develop flood maps which will be incorporated into comprehensive land use plans.
- The Project tackles the very significant problem on flooding and inundation which will affect millions of people globally in the future
- The judging panel see this mapping project as a very useful tool that is transferable throughout the commonwealth
- The panel was impressed by the interdisciplinary and collaborative approach in this project
- The project met a number of the SDGs on sustainability

Commonwealth Association of Planners Award for Outstanding Planning for cities and human settlements/ plan making in the Commonwealth award

Winner

Transit-Oriented Development Implementation Strategy, Calgary, Alberta, Canada



Transit-Oriented Development Implementation Strategy

This plan is relevant to the current discourse on city planning and Transport Oriented Development (TOD), which in itself will support the SDG goals and improve sustainability across the Commonwealth but will also be very relevant in a post-COVID world. Clear that this piece of work demonstrates how plan and plan making is key to planning for cities and human settlement but continues to support the importance of evidence base gathering and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes. The highlight for this plan was that it took into consideration the issues of market interest and capital improvement. Historically, most city plans do not consider the financing mechanism associated with the implementation. The plan also ensures that there is monitoring and evaluation which is key to plan-making. It illustrated a coordinated approach moving from conventional roles of planning towards facilitating implementation, rather than remaining as policy statement in the policy and guide documents. The Station Area Evaluation approach undertaken

demonstrated a systematic and comprehensive assessment of each station area towards the formulation of the recommended implementation strategies. The project approach and methodology is something that would be useful and applicable across the Commonwealth. Overall it shows how you can achieve climate resilience through one type of project, through behaviour change and through systematic and comprehensive assessment but illustrates something that is applicable across the Commonwealth through good land management and stewardship.

Commendation- Calgary-Chestermere Interface Intermunicipal Development Plan, Calgary and Chestermere, Alberta, Canada

This submission is receiving a commendation due to its inter-municipal collaboration. The commitment made by the intermunicipal agencies to adhere to the involvement of the residents and other stakeholders are important aspects of planning, but most importantly working together to cooperate is commendable. The entry demonstrated the skills and planning process required for collaboration and partnership. The formation of Technical Advisory Committee comprising of representatives of the two municipalities, and the process undertaken to synchronise two different policies, plans, and municipal process was key to its success. This is a good, localised intervention, looking to harness growth between two areas in a collaborative way. With rapid urbanisation taking place across Commonwealth, thinking about undeveloped land in this manner, in a collaborative manner, will support sustainable growth in a forward planning manner.

Commonwealth Association of Planning Award for Outstanding Planning Award for Inclusion, Diversity and Engagement

The entries displayed good and innovative practices and the judges congratulate all entrants on their work. Taken together they display innovation, rigour and deep engagement with seldom-heard groups, though we would have liked to receive entries from more countries across the Commonwealth.

Winner

Lethbridge Indigenous Cultural Centre Feasibility Study (Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada and Blackfoot Traditional Territory).

In many Commonwealth countries, sadly, one legacy of the colonial era remains the impoverishment and marginalisation of native peoples. Too often the voices of such groups have not been heard in the planning of places which often carry strong cultural significance for Indigenous peoples. The Lethbridge project has built the business case for creating an Indigenous Cultural Centre in a city of over 100,000 where nearly 10% self-identify as Indigenous (predominantly Blackfoot and Métis).



A decision from the municipal council on the Feasibility Study is awaited, but the award reflects the depth, rigour and professionalism of the planning as evidenced in the process of engagement that was undertaken. It shows how planners can work with historically disadvantaged peoples in the planning, design and delivery of

community planning projects. Specifically the methodology for each of the range of engagement activities (e.g. surveys, site visits, interviews etc.) was co-designed with the project's Indigenous partners. Indigenous persons were consultants and advisors.

This co-design process provides a model for future engagement in Lethbridge and beyond, while also setting expectations amongst Indigenous Communities. This 'plan-with' approach challenges some traditional 'plan for' mindsets in a way that is necessary for delivery of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Commendations

Tupuna Maunga Management Strategies, (Auckland, New Zealand).

Ngā Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland's ancestral mountains) are very significant cultural, historical and geological landscapes. They are sacred to the Indigenous Mana Whenua as taonga tuku iho (treasures handed down the generations). Local communities have an emotional connection with, and draw a sense of identity from, the Tūpuna Maunga.

The inaugural Tūpuna Maunga Integrated Management Plan from 2016 outlined a long-term vision and set out Values and Pathways to achieve integrated outcomes. A series of overarching strategies will apply across all Tūpuna Maunga. Once adopted, these strategies will be reflected at the local level in individual Tūpuna Maunga Management Plans that will detail the ongoing care and management of each Tūpuna Maunga. Both the Integrated Management Plan and now the Tūpuna Maunga Strategies provided the opportunity for Mana Whenua and the people of Auckland to bring together different world views, weave together the strands of the relationships, experiences and connections that all Aucklanders have with the maunga. The Strategies are underpinned by inclusion, and acknowledgement by each party of the other's interests.

Future provision of recreational activities and facilities on, around and between Tūpuna Maunga will reflect Mana Whenua values, celebrate important features and provide experiences which connect recreational users with the Whenua. The development or renewal of any recreational assets will represent and embody cultural, spiritual, heritage and ecological values. The engagement process has defined a new era in the management of these important heritage assets. The project shows how inclusion and engagement can enhance knowledge preservation and capacity-building.

Reaching our diverse communities with AI: The Talanoa Project (Auckland, New Zealand)

This innovative project uses artificial intelligence to overcome traditional language and cultural barriers to engagement with Samoan communities. It developed a tool, Tala, an AI-powered natural language conversational agent, which can interact with people online in either Samoan or English (via a chatbot style web browser). Tala allows participants to have a real time dialogue with a machine about, for example,

public transport reliability or local facilities such as playgrounds or community halls. The system asks open questions, follow-up questions and enables conversations that are driven by the user. Feedback is then displayed in a visual dashboard providing decision makers with a rich view of community perspectives and sentiment about the topic.

Planners helped to create dialogue scripts for Tala, ensuring that the right questions are asked of communities. Questions need to illicit information that helps inform planners' understanding of community aspirations, social interactions and potential impacts or conflicts. Throughout the development of the tool, planners provided insights into how Tala could be best used to improve the engagement processes. Provided digital divides can be overcome, the approach has potential across the Commonwealth.

Kaituna River Re-diversion and Maketu Estuary Enhancement (Bay of Plenty, New Zealand)

In 1956 a cut was engineered to divert the Kaituna River and enable land reclamation for agriculture. This had negative ecological and environmental impacts, but also undermined the cultural knowledge of the Indigenous Tangata Whenua Māori people. Planners have been an integral part of the project to restore the flow of the river along its historic route to the estuary, which has yielded environmental gains, replanting, the creation of a local reserve and upgrading of public boat facilities. Collaboration with Tangata Whenua to achieve cultural outcomes was critical to the success of the project, with seven groups directly involved and four separate cultural impact assessments supporting the planning applications for the project. This approach ensured that the project would contribute to the restoration of cultural knowledge and the mauri (life force) of the river and estuary.

This complex project straddles the interface between natural and cultural environments. It shows the impact that planners can have as change agents, by practical, innovative, and inclusive engagement and collaboration with diverse groups within an area.