VICTORIA, BC – Last night, at a non-statutory public hearing at City Hall, Council approved the Downtown Core Area Plan.

“Two years of consultation with residents and industry has resulted in a great plan that will guide our downtown development for the next 30 years, helping ensure that downtown remains the heart of the region,” said Mayor Dean Fortin. “We continue to move this provincial capital to a world-class city.”

The plan lays out a vision to encourage and foster the development of an attractive, vibrant, pedestrian-friendly and economically resilient downtown area. Council and staff will look to the 30 year plan as a guide for growth and development downtown in the years ahead.

Victoria’s downtown area is expected to see a population increase of about approximately 10,000 new residents along with increased demand for office and hotel development over the next 30 years.

The Downtown Core Area Plan will serve as the local area plan for both Downtown and Harris Green neighbourhoods, replacing the existing 20 year old Downtown Victoria Plan and the Harris Green Neighbourhood Plan. It will also provide additional policy guidance for bordering areas of Rock Bay, Fairfield and James Bay in conjunction with their local area plans.

Over the next few months staff will be developing a detailed implementation strategy and action plan to identify short and long-term initiatives and will report back to Council once it is complete.

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