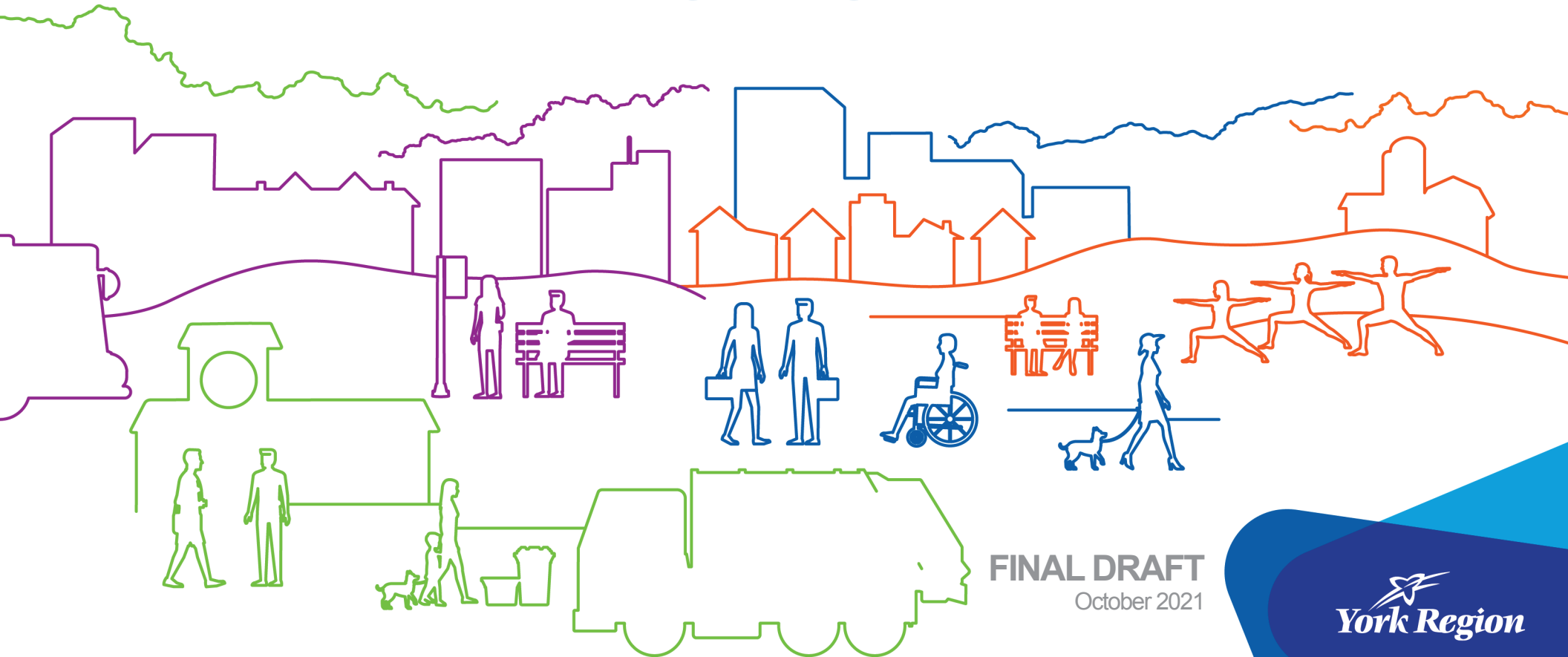


# VISION

Strong, Caring, Safe Communities



FINAL DRAFT  
October 2021



Chairman & CEO  
Wayne Emmerson



Mayor  
Frank Scarpitti  
Markham



Regional Councillor  
Don Hamilton  
Markham



Regional Councillor  
Jack Heath  
Markham



Regional Councillor  
Joe Li  
Markham



Regional Councillor  
Jim Jones  
Markham



Mayor  
John Taylor  
Newmarket



Regional Councillor  
Tom Vegh  
Newmarket



Acting Mayor  
Joe DiPaola  
Richmond Hill



Regional Councillor  
Carmine Perrelli  
Richmond Hill



Acting Regional Councillor  
Godwin Chan  
Richmond Hill



Mayor  
Maurizio Bevilacqua  
Vaughan



Regional Councillor  
Mario Ferri  
Vaughan



Regional Councillor  
Gino Rosati  
Vaughan



Regional Councillor  
Linda Jackson  
Vaughan



Mayor  
Margaret Quirk  
Georgina



Regional Councillor  
Robert Grossi  
Georgina



Mayor  
Tom Mrakas  
Aurora



Mayor  
Virginia Hackson  
East Gwillimbury



Mayor  
Steve Pellegrini  
King



Mayor  
Iain Lovatt  
Whitchurch-Stouffville

## Message from York Region Chairman and CEO and Members of Regional Council

# York Regional Council is committed to *strong, caring, safe communities.*

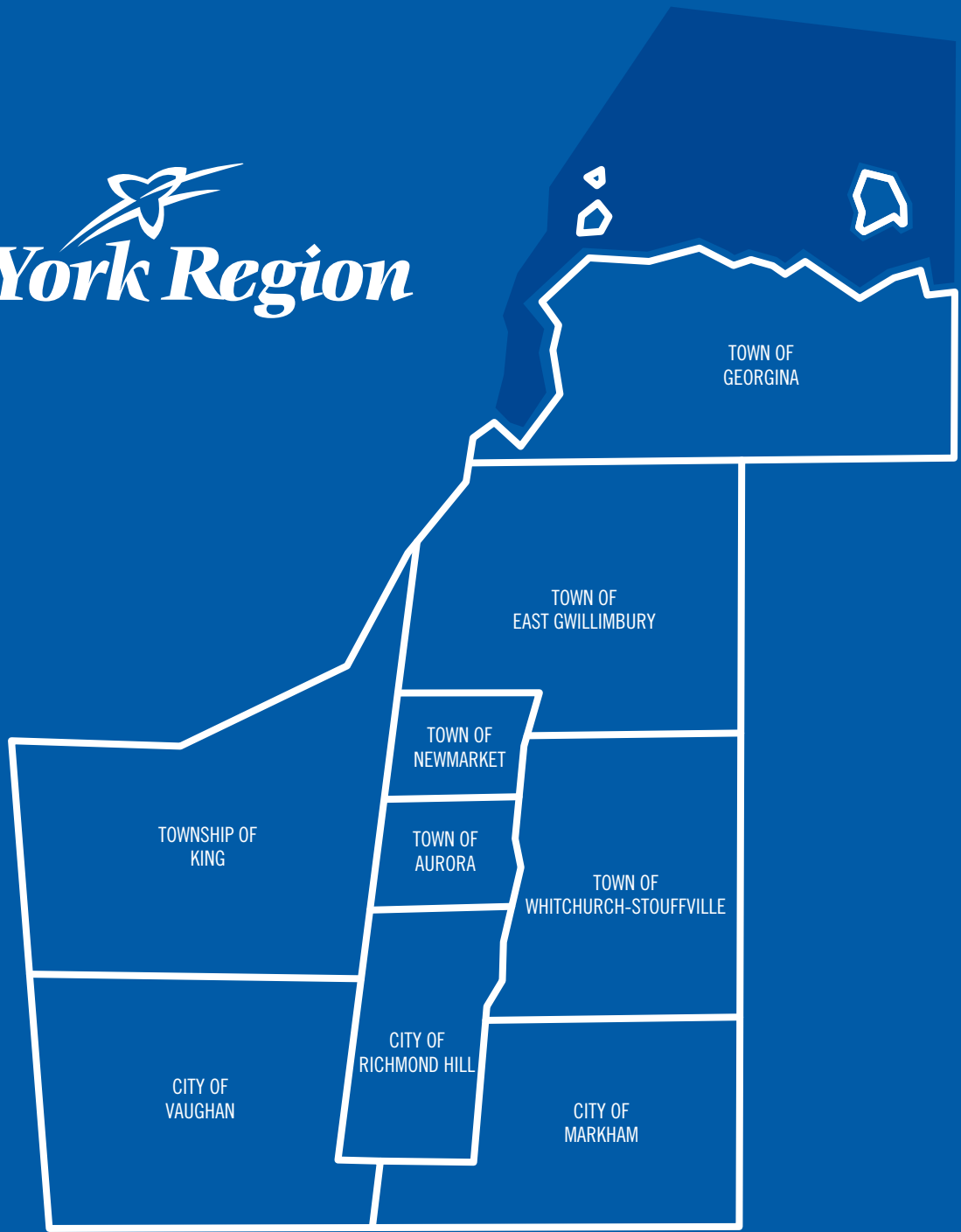
Vision documents our commitment to York Region. It is the outcome of more than two years of outreach and engagement with residents, partners and staff, listening closely to ensure we truly understood and captured what residents wanted and needed, today and tomorrow.

Vision is also a recognition of our accountability to the community. It is the north star that aligns the work we do and guides the practices of our ambitious and productive workforce. From Vision flows the actions and measurements captured in our Corporate Strategic Plan, departmental plans and, ultimately, the performance plans of each of our staff members.

We acknowledge York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples such as the Huron-Wendat First Nation, the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe peoples and the treaty territories

of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. York Region falls under Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Williams Treaties with the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama First Nations and the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Scugog Island First Nations. There are also other land claims and treaty rights involving portions of York Region that have not been definitively resolved. The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation is the closest First Nation community to York Region. We thank these and other Indigenous peoples for sharing their land with us.

With great mindfulness of the past and great hope for the future, we are proud to share our Vision with you and invite you to join us in achieving this Vision for the future.



# VISION

We envision

**strong,  
caring,  
safe communities**

through our mission of

**working together to serve our thriving  
communities— today and tomorrow**

by relying on our values of

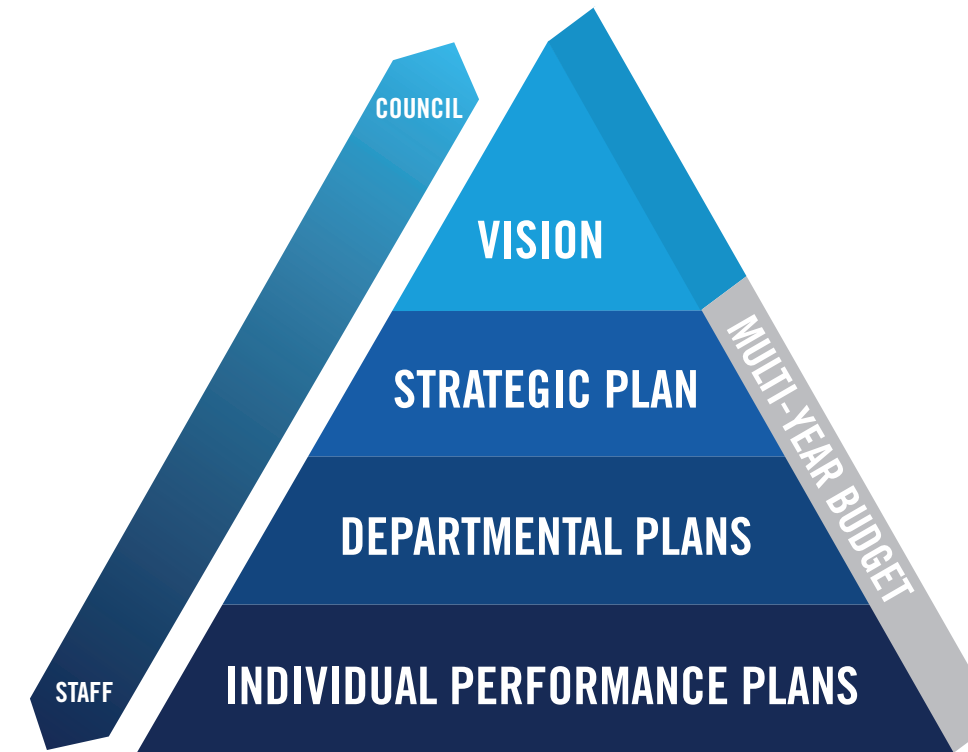
- Integrity**
- Commitment**
- Accountability**
- Respect**
- Excellence**

## York Region's Vision

**STRONG  
CARING  
SAFE  
COMMUNITIES**

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This diagram illustrates York Region's accountability framework and shows how Vision guides all corporate plans.

York Region's Vision expresses Council's commitment to *strong, caring, safe communities*. It is ambitious, optimistic and aspirational.

Vision serves as the guiding star for the Region's corporate planning activities. It ensures all York Region staff are working in the same direction, regardless of their role or function within the organization. It guides Regional Council's decision making towards achieving the kinds of communities York Region residents envision now for the future.

Vision has a long-term outlook well beyond the time frames of the Region's more time-bound documents, such as the four-year Corporate Strategic Plan and Multi-Year Budgets, and the Region's statutory obligations to plan for population and employment growth with a 30-year outlook. In contrast to these documents and plans, Vision looks well into the future to set the direction today for the kinds of communities in which we aspire to create, work and live.

# We Listen

York Regional Council and staff are committed to listening to our community and our partners.

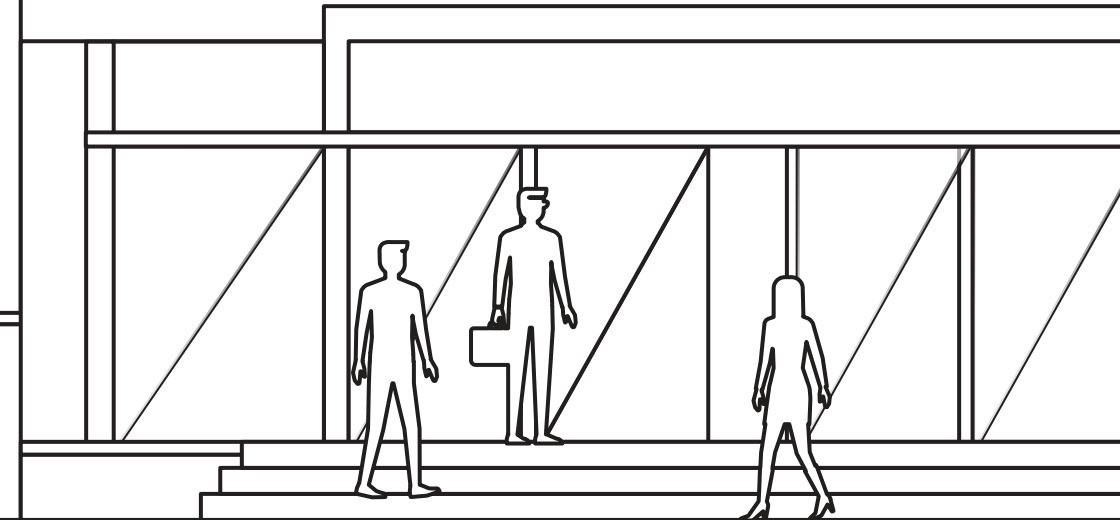
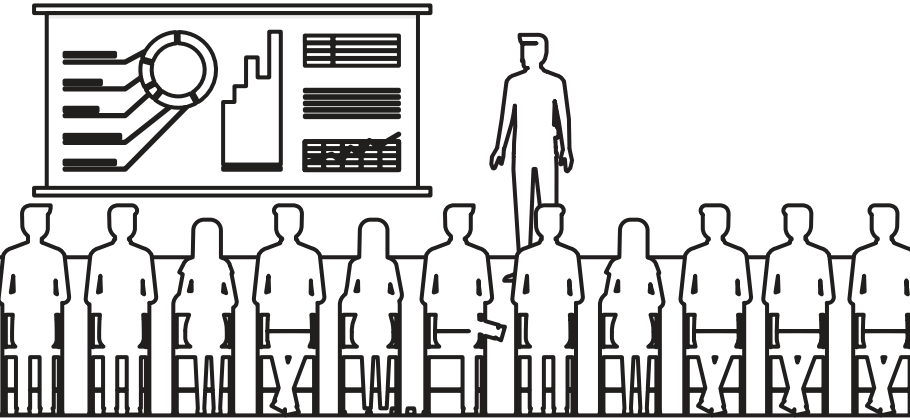
We listened closely to create this Vision, including nearly 4,000 direct engagements with stakeholders.

Community members came together in person to enjoy walk and talks with the Chief Planner

York Region's social agencies and police service came together for consultations

Futurist and planning sessions were held with Council and senior management by renowned experts in the field

Outreach was conducted with every household in York Region through the Region's print publication, York Region Matters



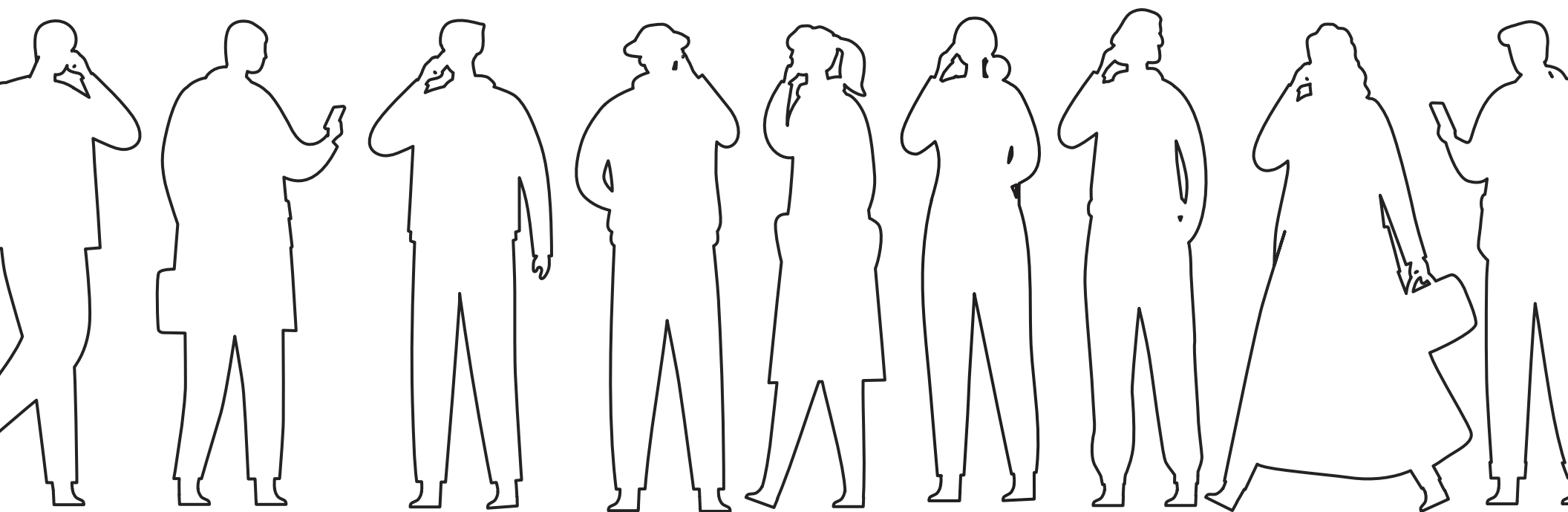
# We Survey Residents

York Region has a long history of surveying residents, which is a testament to Council's commitment to understanding resident preferences, needs, opinions and satisfaction levels.

Annual community surveys are statistically representative of the make up of York Region's population, all the way from age, gender and education to diversity.

We surveyed residents and learned that residents felt we are living up to our Vision statement of *Strong, Caring, Safe Communities*, and most residents felt the quality of life here in York Region was very high and safe.

We commit to continuing our surveying of residents, asking questions to ensure Vision resonates with all members of the community and no part of the community is left behind.



## 84% of residents feel York Region is living up to its Vision of **STRONG, CARING, SAFE COMMUNITIES**

Source: Community Opinion Polling, 2020





# We learn about the type of life residents envision now for a better future.

Residents shared their Vision of York Region. In this Vision...

York Region has a knowledge-based economy. It has smart cities, interesting and exciting places to live, work and play, robust services and infrastructure, and a seamless network for mobility of goods, services and people. It is a place of abundant economic opportunity for all.

York Region is renowned for healthy living. It is a place where vulnerable populations can live and thrive as much as others and all have equal access to social services and support for health. York Region is safe and welcoming with accessible opportunities for recreation and affordable housing.

York Region protects its natural environment with a focus on sustainable building and living to reduce our ecological impact.

York Region is renowned for its openness and engagement of community in decision making. It is a place of social inclusion and support that promotes and protects social cohesion for all.

We will continually strive to make this Vision a reality and commit to continuously learning about the type of life residents envision now for a better future.



**YOUR community**  
**YOUR ideas**  
**YOUR future**

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# We Evolve

The Vision you hold in your hands is the next step in a long history of visioning by York Region.

Like the Visions that came before, this Vision was developed with a great mindfulness of the past along with a great deal of conversation with the community.

Though York Region's Vision has evolved and matured over time, the overall goals of the Region have remained consistent. These goals align with the Region's areas of focus identified in the following pages – the four overarching conditions of well-being for our communities: Economic Vitality, Healthy Communities, Sustainable Environment and Good Government.

These areas of aspirational focus are at the heart and soul of our work and cascade through our entire organization. They are captured and reported on in the Corporate Strategic Plan and supported by the Region's Multi-Year Budget.



**ACTION**  
WITHOUT **vision** IS  
ONLY PASSING **time**,  
**VISION**  
WITHOUT **action** IS  
MERELY DAY DREAMING,  
but **VISION with ACTION**  
CAN CHANGE  
**THE WORLD**

*Nelson Mandela*

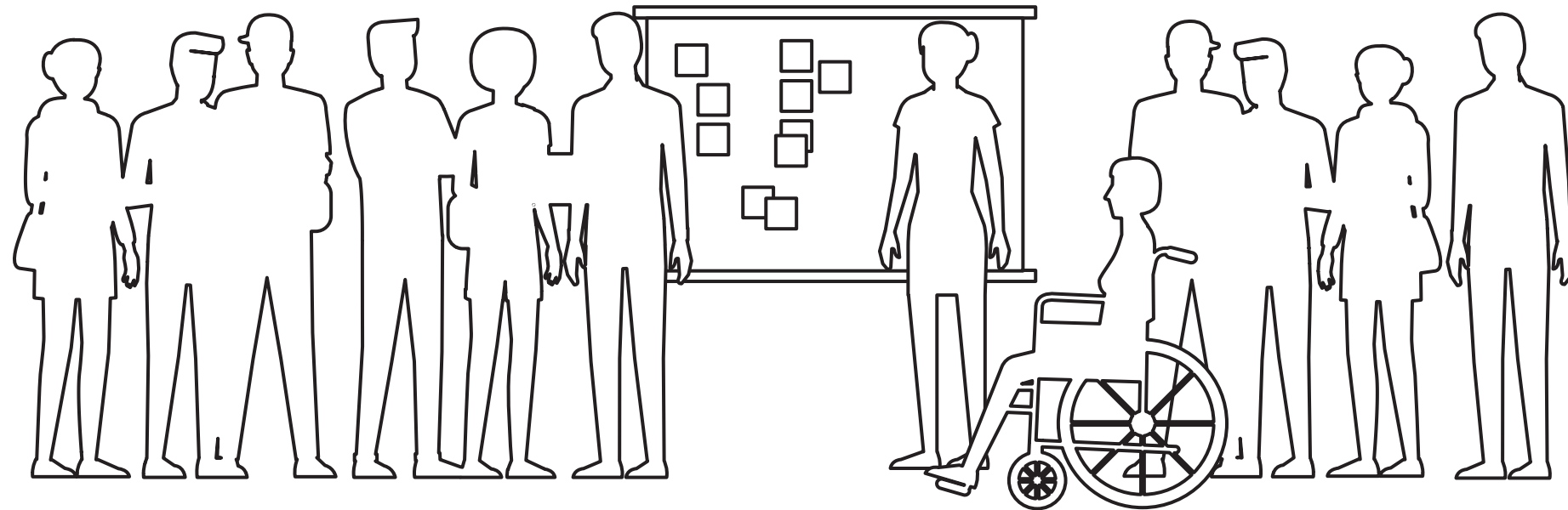


# We Aspire

York Region's action towards Vision occurs through the corporate strategic planning and multi-year budget process.





Community indicators will also be reported to each term of Council to show how we are doing in achieving *strong, caring, safe communities*. These indicators are important to provide integrity to Vision. They are the final steps towards making Vision credible and tangible.

In 2020, more than 80 per cent of residents agreed that York Region was living up to its Vision. It is our goal to improve this belief, along with the results of the rest of the community indicators in this document, as we continue our journey towards achieving Vision.



York Region  
is a place of ...  
**Economic**  
**VITALITY**  
**Healthy**  
**COMMUNITIES**  
**Sustainable**  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
**Good**  
**GOVERNMENT**  
... now and in  
the future.

## Core Components of Vision

VISION STATEMENT: STRONG, CARING, SAFE COMMUNITIES	
<b>AREAS OF FOCUS</b> for the wellbeing of our communities	<b>COMMUNITY INDICATORS</b> show how we are doing in achieving our Vision. Community indicators represent the entire York Region population. Multiple partners are involved in improving results of community indicators towards realizing Vision.
 <b>ECONOMIC VITALITY</b> focuses on what is needed to encourage and sustain economic growth and vitality of the Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Median Household Income</li> <li>• % of York Region residents living in persistent low-income (6 years or longer)</li> <li>• Labour Force Participation Rate</li> <li>• % of population with access to Internet service</li> <li>• # of businesses per 100,000 population</li> </ul>
 <b>HEALTHY COMMUNITIES</b> focuses on the livability, health, safety and social well-being of our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of population that rates their mental health as very good or excellent</li> <li>• % of households spending 30 per cent or more of income on housing cost</li> <li>• % of population that rates their overall health as very good or excellent</li> <li>• Total crime rate per 100,000 population</li> <li>• Immunization rate for elementary school aged children</li> </ul>
 <b>SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT</b> focuses on the need to protect and sustain the natural and built environment and reduce our ecological impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of commuters using a travel mode to work other than a personal vehicle</li> <li>• Greenhouse gas emissions measured in tonnes per capita</li> <li>• Average residential water demand (litres/capita/day)</li> <li>• Hectares of green space per 100,000 population</li> <li>• % solid waste diverted from landfill (including energy-from-waste)</li> </ul>
 <b>GOOD GOVERNMENT</b> focuses on a sense of community as one that is democratic, accessible, equitable and reliable, where civic engagement and participation is welcomed from all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey respondents' level of community engagement</li> <li>• % of the population aged 12 and older who reported "very strong" or "somewhat strong" sense of community belonging</li> <li>• % of survey respondents who would recommend York Region as a place to live</li> <li>• % of survey respondents who feel York Region is living up to its Vision</li> <li>• Voter participation in last municipal election (as a percentage of eligible voters)</li> </ul>

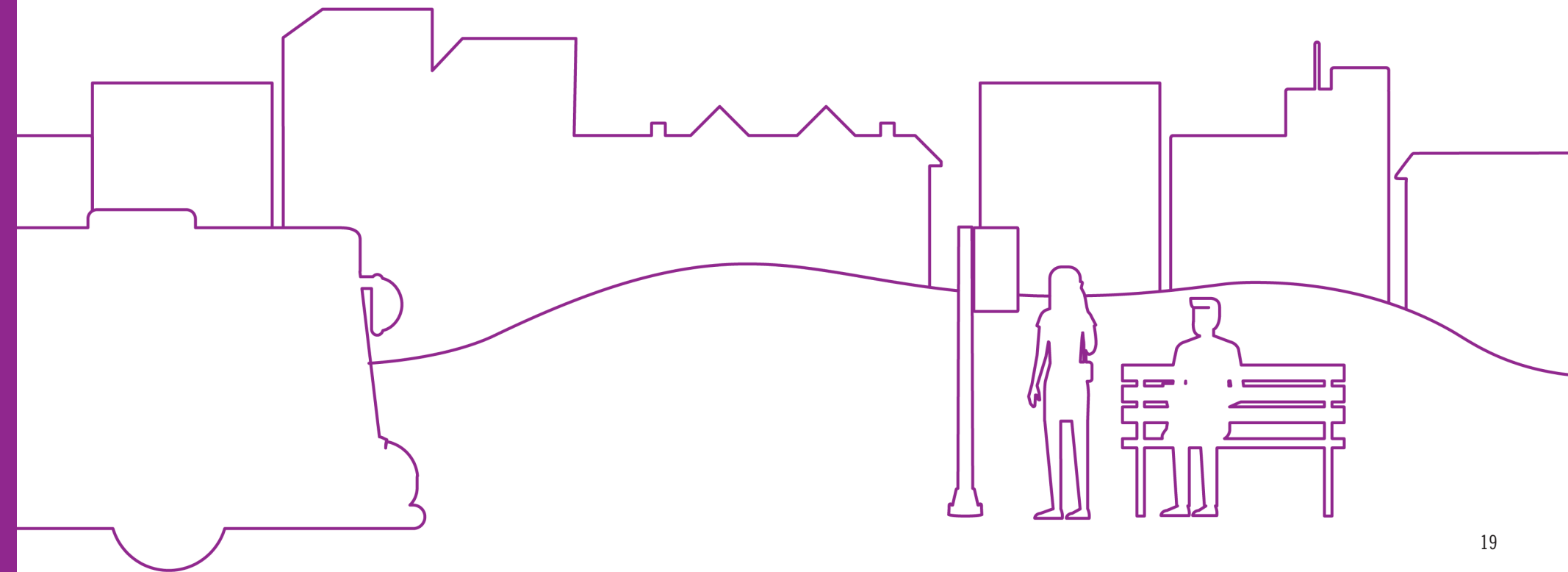


# Economic VITALITY

Focuses on what is needed to encourage and sustain economic growth and vitality of the Region.

## HOW IS IT measured?

- Median Household Income
- % of York Region residents living in persistent low-income (6 years or longer)
- Labour Force Participation Rate
- % of population with access to Internet service
- # of businesses per 100,000 population



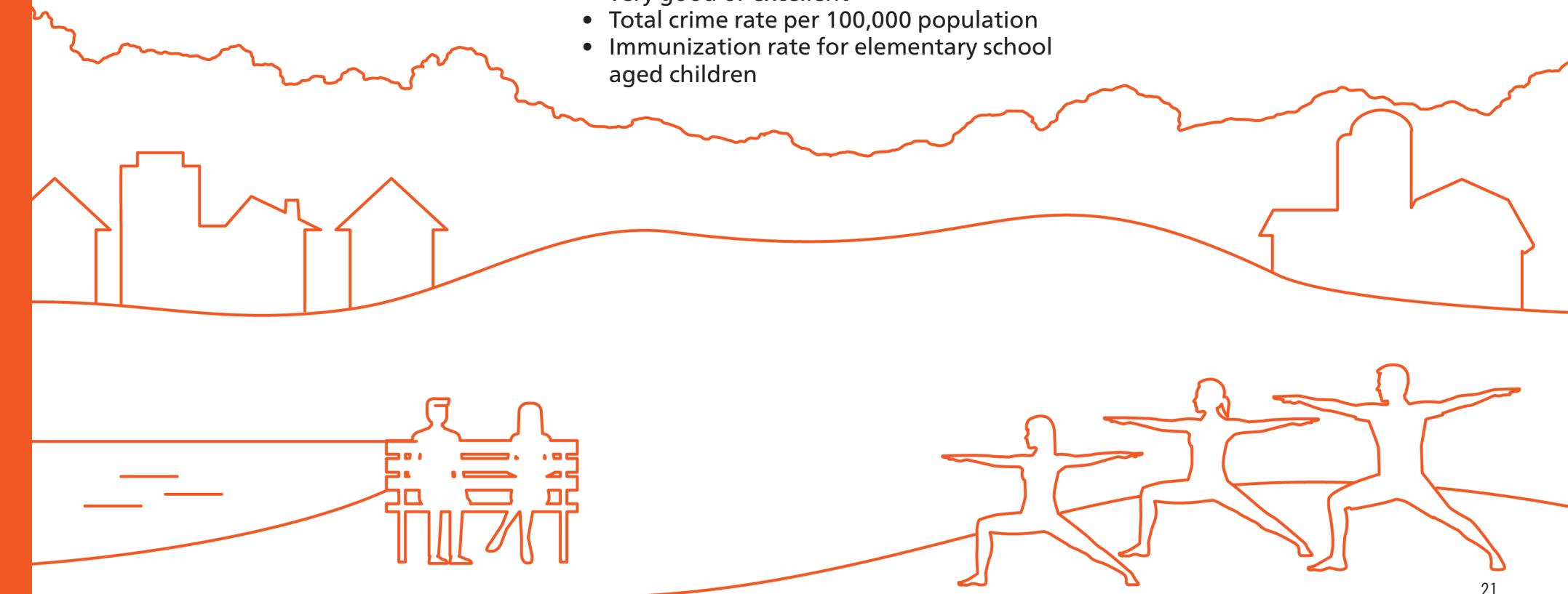


# Healthy COMMUNITIES

Focuses on the  
livability, health,  
safety and social  
well-being of our  
communities.

## HOW IS IT measured?

- % of population that rates their mental health as very good or excellent
- % of households spending 30 per cent or more of income on housing cost
- % of population that rates their overall health as very good or excellent
- Total crime rate per 100,000 population
- Immunization rate for elementary school aged children



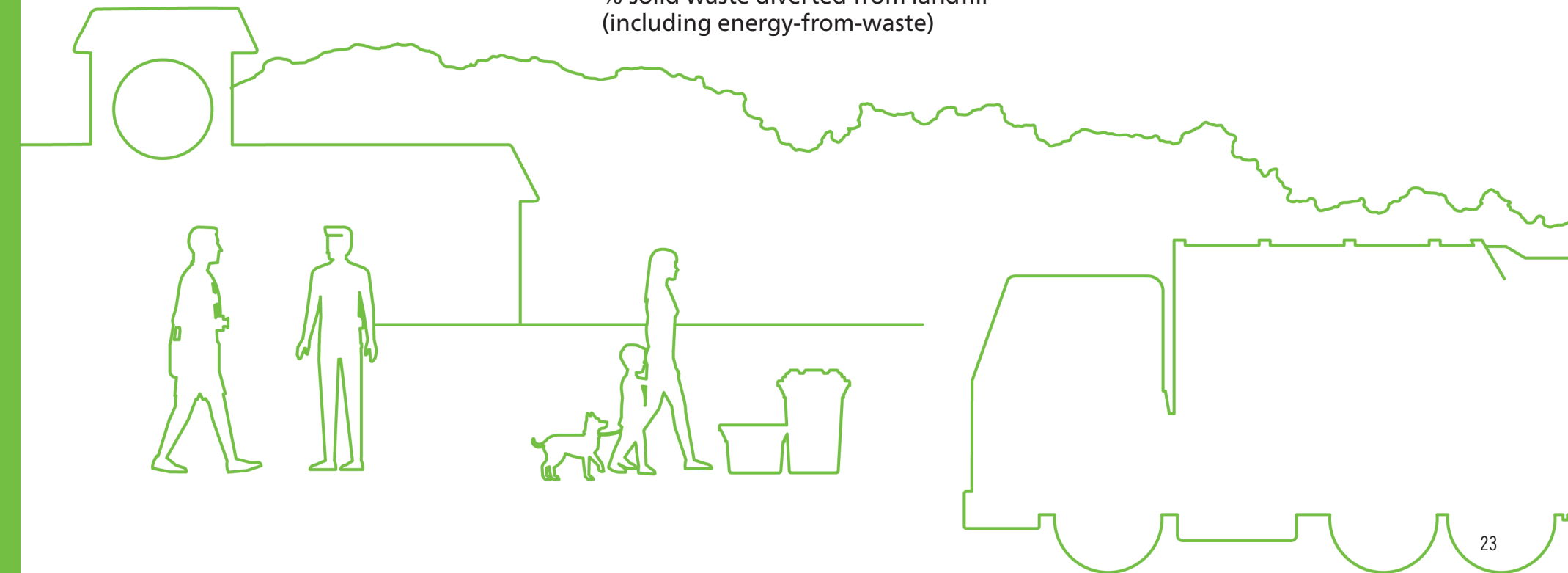


# Sustainable ENVIRONMENT

Focuses on the need to protect and sustain the natural and built environment and reduce our ecological impact.

## HOW IS IT measured?

- % of commuters using a travel mode to work other than a personal vehicle
- Greenhouse gas emissions measured in tonnes per capita
- Average residential water demand (litres/capita/day)
- Hectares of green space per 100,000 population
- % solid waste diverted from landfill (including energy-from-waste)





# Good GOVERNMENT

Focuses on a sense of community as one that is democratic, accessible, equitable and reliable, where civic engagement and participation is welcomed from all.

## HOW IS IT measured?

- Survey respondents' level of community engagement
- % of the population aged 12 and older who reported "very strong" or "somewhat strong" sense of community belonging
- % of survey respondents who would recommend York Region as a place to live
- % of survey respondents who feel York Region is living up to its Vision
- Voter participation in last municipal election (as a percentage of eligible voters)



To the **1.2 MILLION** residents of York Region, including all those who personally responded, and took part in listening events..

**THANK YOU**

Diolch    **Rahmat**    Salammat    متشكرم    **Gracias**    Na gode  
Takk skal du ha    Grazzi    Arigatou    Obrigado    Sas efharistó!    **Dankon**    நன்றி  
அமீர்    Toda    Dankie    **Mahalo**    **Merci**    Благодарю    Fa'afetai    **Tānan**  
감사 해요    Hvala    **THANK YOU**    آپ کا شکریہ    Grazie  
khawp khun    Dankuwel    Tak    **Cảm ơn bạn**  
Спасибо    Obrigada    Teşekkür ederim    Dzięki    šukran  
Köszönöm    **Děkuji vám**    اشكر    Paldies    Danke    dhun-yuh-vaad  
Daalu    Adúpé    Terima kasih    Ďakujeme    **Takk**    Mulțumesc    उगाडा यंनवाच    Tēnā koe  
Asante



# VISION BELONGS TO ALL OF US.

It reflects 1.2 million aspirations for tomorrow.



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK**

# **VISION**

