Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – June 24, 2015

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Item No. 8 Independent Fairness Commissioner

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Policy Committee, in its capacity as the Audit Committee, receive as information the Independent Fairness Commissioner report dated December 2014.

Audit Department Report
Independent Fairness Commissioner

At a Special Meeting of Council on July 9, 2014, Council passed the following motions:

> 19. A. That the City of Winnipeg create an Independent Fairness Commissioner (IFC), who would have the power to review all Real Estate Transactions and Management Services before they are presented to the Standing Policy Committee and/or Council, and that they would report directly to Council, via and under the Office of the City Auditor;
>
> B. That the power to review and comment on all real estate transactions by the IFC, be retroactive to all potential transactions now underway and that the said IFC be reviewed by Council in 5 years;
>
> C. That the Auditor, in consultation with the City Solicitor, report to Council for the purpose of approving the mandate/model for the IFC and the financial resources required for the operation of the said Independent Fairness Commissioner.

Report Summary

The objective of the Independent Fairness Commissioner (IFC) is to ensure that real estate transactions adhere to the policies and procedures of the City of Winnipeg. Additionally, the IFC should consider if the policies and procedures in place meet the goals of being open, fair and transparent.

Research conducted by the Audit Department did not identify any other jurisdictions that have implemented a fairness commissioner (also known as fairness monitor) specific to real estate transactions.

In consultation with representatives of the Planning, Property & Development Department, the Audit Department has identified three potential models for implementation of an Independent Fairness Commissioner. The difference between potential models is the option of using internal staff versus contracted services and on the level of IFC involvement at different points in the review of the real estate transactions.

Policy

The report is being submitted in accordance with the City Organization By-law 7100/97 section 19(d)(iv) that the Audit Committee will "Receive and review audit reports, and table such reports with its recommendations at a regular meeting of Executive Policy Committee."

Recommendation:

That the Executive Policy Committee, in its capacity as the Audit Committee, receive as information the Independent Fairness Commissioner report dated December 2014.

Attachment – Independent Fairness Commissioner Report



IFC Report Final.pdf