Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 12, 2018

REPORTS

Item No. 13 Open Government Annual Review

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the 2018 Open Government Annual Review be received as information.

Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 12, 2018

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

Administrative Report

Title: Open Government Annual Review

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
F. Wiltshire	F. Wiltshire	N/A	D. Wardrop, Acting CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On February 15, 2017, Council approved the City of Winnipeg Open Government Policy, which provides a framework for the Public Service to continue to move towards being more open, transparent, and accountable.

The Open Government Annual Review aims to provide a summary of the work that has been done to date on Open Government in the City of Winnipeg, and to outline work that is ongoing and planned for the future.

Over the past year significant work has been done to increase the amount of information available to the public with 15 new data sets having been made available on the City's Open Data Portal. All data on the Open Data portal has been released as JSON, XML and CSV, which are universal general standards for machine readability. The City has also worked with North Forge to host two Open Data Hackathons, which were open to members of the public at no charge.

The City has released the Open Capital Projects Dashboard which tracks the progress on the City's open capital projects with budgets of $5 million or more, and Open Budget to explore City's Capital spending.

The Office of Public Engagement has been working to provide improved access to public engagement events by ensuring two weeks advance notice is now standard for all public events, with project materials provided in advance whenever possible. The Office of Public Engagement is also standardizing project follow up and communication with stakeholders in the final stages of a project by providing stakeholders with information on how to register as a delegation for projects that are required to report to City Council. In addition to offering a variety of online and in-person public engagement opportunities, the Office of Public Engagement has live streamed four events where they were able to take questions and provide responses to those who were watching via the live stream.

The objectives set out in the Policy are not intended to be static, but rather they are anticipated to be organic in nature as they will continue to be shaped by dialogue with both citizens and City

departments. The principles and action items which are set out in the Policy are non-exhaustive, as new ideas and outcomes will continue develop over time

RECOMMENDATIONS

That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On February 15, 2017 Council adopted the following recommendation:

"That Council approves the City of Winnipeg Open Government Policy (Appendix A) and direct the Public Service to report back annually on Open Government Policy implementation at the City of Winnipeg"

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications of the recommendations.

HISTORY / DISCUSSION

Over the past decade citizens have been passionate about informing themselves on local community issues and engaging in government policy. Direct access to information and openness and transparency at all levels of government is being demanded in order to empower citizens.

The City of Winnipeg has components of an open government framework but does not have an all-encompassing standardized policy that is implemented City-wide.

On March 20, 2013, Council adopted an Open Data Initiative which endorsed the principles of providing Open and Accessible Data that could be shared with citizens, businesses and other jurisdictions the greatest amount of data possible while respecting privacy and security concerns.

On June 25, 2014, Council adopted the "Open Government Initiative - Improvements to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Process" which directed the Winnipeg Public Service to implement a new process for Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) requests. This process would focus on the concepts of openness and transparency in providing government data, while ensuring privacy and security of data for citizens and businesses, in keeping with the Open Data Initiatives adopted by Council.

On September 16, 2015, Executive Policy Committee requested that the Public Service conduct a review of all city data sharing and identify opportunities to apply machine readable format along with a review of security and privacy considerations and report back within 90 days.

On October 26, 2015 the City Clerk's office prepared a report outlining leading open government initiatives in other jurisdictions and broad recommendations on next steps for the City of Winnipeg in implementing open government.

On November 18, 2015 the Chief Administrative Officer was directed to implement an open government policy across all Departments in the City of Winnipeg, and to develop an Action Plan for Council's endorsement within 6 months.

On July 13, 2016, Council approved the Open Government Action Plan, and directed the Winnipeg Public Service was directed to report back on an Open Government Policy by February 2017.

On February 15, 2017, Council approved the City of Winnipeg Open Government Policy and directed the public service to report back annual on open government initiatives that have been undertaken.

The first annual review was provided to Council on September 27, 2017.

Since that time, significant work has been done to increase the amount of information available to the public with 15 new data sets having been made available on the City's Open Data Portal. All data on the Open Data portal has been released as JSON, XML and CSV, which are universal general standards for machine readability. The City has also worked with North Forge to host two Open Data Hackathons, which were open to members of the public at no charge.

The City has released the Open Capital Projects Dashboard which tracks the progress on the City's open capital projects with budgets of $5 million or more, and Open Budget to explore City's Capital spending.

The Office of Public Engagement has been working to provide more access to public engagement events by ensuring two weeks advance notice is now standard for all public events, with project materials provided in advance whenever possible. The improved public engagement webpage provides a centralized hub of all engagement projects and information for easier citizen access. The Office of Public Engagement is also standardizing project follow up and communication with stakeholders in the final stages of a project by providing stakeholders with information on how to register as a delegation for projects that are required to report to City Council. In addition to offering a variety of online and in-person public engagement opportunities, the Office of Public Engagement has live streamed four events where they were able to take questions and provide responses to those who were watching via the live stream.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** August 21, 2018

Project Name:

Open Government Annual Review

COMMENTS:

As this report is for information only, there is no associated financial impact.

original signed by
Tanis Yanchishyn
Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

Innovation Department
City Clerks

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Not applicable.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Prepared by: F. Wiltshire, Director, Customer Service & Communications
Date: August 23, 2018

Attachments (1):

Appendix A: City of Winnipeg 2018 Open Government Annual Review