Minute No. 581
Report – Executive Policy Committee – October 20, 2020

Item No. 1 Open Government Policy

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That an extension of time of 30 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on Open Government Policy implementation at the City of Winnipeg.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Executive Policy Committee – October 20, 2020

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 20, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee submitted to Council that an extension of time of 30 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on Open Government Policy implementation at the City of Winnipeg.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 30, 2020, Council concurred in the September 21, 2020 recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That an extension of time of 30 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on Open Government Policy implementation at the City of Winnipeg.

On February 22, 2017, Council concurred in the February 15, 2017 recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee, which included the following recommendation:

1. That the City of Winnipeg Open Government Policy (Appendix A) be approved, and the Public Service be directed to report back annually on Open Government Policy implementation at the City of Winnipeg.

Administrative Report

Title: Open Government Policy

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
F. Wiltshire	F.Wiltshire	n/a	D. McNeil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Open Government Policy intends to provide a framework for the Public Service to move towards being more open, transparent, and accountable.

The objectives set out in the Policy, as with the Policy itself, 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 may, and should, develop over time

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. 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

2. That the proper officers at the City of Winnipeg be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On July 13, 2016, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the City of Winnipeg Open Government Action Plan (attached) be approved, and the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back with the Open Government Policy by February 2017.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Public Service will begin working on implementing the Open Government Policy across all City departments, and will report back to Council annually on the implementation of the Policy and any new initiatives undertaken.

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 to report back on an Open Government Policy by February 2017.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date: February 7, 2017

Project Name: Open Government Policy

COMMENTS:

There are no direct financial implications related to this report as the report is policy in nature.

(Original signed by R. Hodges)
Ramona Hodges
Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

Corporate Support Services

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Not applicable.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: Felicia Wiltshire, Director, Customer Service & Communications

Date: February 7, 2017

Appendix A: Open Government Policy