Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 18, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 10 2024 Open Government Policy 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 this report be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Duncan,

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

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On February 27, 2025, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That an extension of time of up to 30 days be granted for the Public Service to report back with the annual report 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.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 18, 2025, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On December 12, 2024, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That an extension of time of up to 60 days be granted to report back with the annual report on Open Government Policy implementation at the City of Winnipeg.

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 4, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

David Grant submitted a communication in support of the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 30, 2020, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee, which included the following recommendation:

3. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to submit an annual report to Council detailing the progress of the City's Open Data program, to advise on the progress and successes of the preceding year.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: 2024 Open Government Policy Annual Review

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
F. Wiltshire	F. Wiltshire	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim 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.

Key achievements over the past year include:

- The launch of seven new data sets on the City's Open Data Portal, and
- One new Open Data-powered application to facilitate access to data, increase transparency and illustrate alignment to key priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. 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 associated with receiving this report as information.

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.

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 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 six 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, and have continued on an annual basis since then.

2024 Annual Update

Over the past year, significant work has been done to increase the amount of information available to the public with seven 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.

Among the new datasets are:

- Cycling Network, which includes on and off-road cycling infrastructure
- Infrastructure Plan Funding is the data behind the Interactive 2024 Infrastructure Plan web application
- Department Diversity Stats include information shared in the City's internal Diversity Dashboard
- Web Analytics shows a daily snapshot of Open Data Portal use
- Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service – Fire Responses lists fire incidents responded to by the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
- Vacant Property Fires list fire incidents at vacant properties responded to by the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
- Legacy River Levels provides a historical record of river levels for the Assiniboine and Red Rivers

The Access and Privacy Office (APO) received 2046 FIPPA requests in 2024, breaching the 2000 threshold for the first time. This was an 8 percent increase over the previous year. As in previous years, the most common requests are for copies of police reports (62 percent) and fire reports (14 percent). Work continues to convert the City's access and privacy training to online modules by later this year which will enable more people to fit the training into their learning plans.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: March 3, 2025

Project Name:
Open Government Policy Annual Review

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications in receiving this report as information.

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:
Innovation & Technology Department
City Clerks

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

1.5 Evidence-Informed Decisions
Invest in data and technology in order to support objective, evidence-informed decision-making; support open government and open data principles for collection and sharing; help coordinate records and information management; and improve process efficiency, results-based service delivery and accountability.

1.19 Equitable Service Access
Achieve best practice standards in equitable customer service and communications, enabling all community members to understand and navigate municipal service-delivery systems and decision-making processes, in the official language of their choice.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

n/a

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Goal 6: All City Services are Equitable, Inclusive and Accessible

Action 6.3 – Increased Communications of City Programs and Services
Strategically use communications tools to increase awareness of existing City programs and services that benefit people experiencing poverty. These include, but are not limited to, updating the centralized information page on the City website (winnipeg.ca/Supporting Winnipeggers) and sharing with community partners, enhanced promotions for key City services (e.g. multi-lingual interpreter service available on 311, Recreation Fee Subsidy and third-party referral program, WINNpass program, low-cost shower-only ($1.95) option at Recreation facilities, etc.)

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Customer Service & Communications
Division: Office of the Director
Prepared by: F. Wiltshire
Date: March 3, 2025
File No: