Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – December 9, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 9 Open Government and Open Data – 2025 Annual Report

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 be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

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.

On February 22, 2017, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

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.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Open Government and Open Data - 2025 Annual Report

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
J. Bodnarchuk	M. Walczak / D. Driedger	N/A	J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017, Council adopted the Open Government Policy. This Policy helps make the City more open to the public. It focuses on four principles:

- Participation
- Transparency
- Collaboration
- Accountability

Council directed the Public Service to provide an annual report on how the City is implementing the Open Government Policy.

In 2020, Council adopted the Open Data Program. This program follows international rules called the Open Data Charter. The Open Data Charter promotes sharing government data with the public. The goal is to make City information easier to access, use, and understand.

Council also directed the Public Service to provide an annual report detailing the progress of the City's Open Data Program.

In 2025, the Public Service presents a combined report of Open Government and Open Data that speaks to the key achievements in the last 12 months. The two reports are being combined because their focus, content, and objectives overlap. This reflects the broader integration of Open Data within the City's Open Government initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On February 22, 2017, Council adopted the Open Government Policy and directed the Public Service to report back annually on Open Government Policy implementation at the City of Winnipeg.

On September 30, 2020, Council adopted the Open Data Program and directed the Public Service to submit an annual report to Council detailing the progress of the City's Open Data program.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications associated with receiving this report as information.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

History

On February 22, 2017, Council adopted the Open Government Policy which applies the principles of participation, transparency, collaboration and accountability to address civic challenges. These principles, together with public participation and the use of technology and innovation, form the engine which drives Open Government and leads toward better outcomes for both government and the residents it serves. The Public Service was directed to report back annually on Open Government Policy implementation at the City of Winnipeg (the "City").

On September 30, 2020, Council adopted the Open Data Program which adopted the International Open Data Charter and directed the Public Service 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.

Council received as information:

- Open Government Annual Reviews each year from 2017 to 2024.
- Open Data Annual Reports each year from 2021 to 2024.

In 2025, the two annual reports were combined into the Open Government and Open Data Annual Report.

Discussion

The combined Open Government and Open Data Annual Report summarizes the work undertaken by the City in the last 12 months to make the Public Service more open, accountable, and responsive to residents. The two reports are being combined because their focus, content, and objectives have increasingly overlapped, reflecting the broader integration of Open Data within the City's Open Government initiatives. The highlighted work includes accomplishments and progress made in the last 12 months, as well as upcoming initiatives.

<u>Certification and Benchmarking</u>

In 2017, What Works Cities ("WWC") launched their Certification program to benchmark, recognize and celebrate local governments for their exceptional use of data to inform policy decisions, allocate funding, improve services, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and engage residents. Certification is open to all cities in North, Central, and South America with a population of at least 30,000.

In 2019, the City completed an Assessment for WWC Certification and achieved 7 of 45 criteria across eight foundational practice areas.

In 2023, the City updated its Assessment based on WWC's revised criteria and achieved 12 of 43 criteria across eight foundational practice areas.

In 2024, the City updated its Assessment and achieved 22 of 43 criteria across eight foundational practice areas. This met the threshold for Silver Certification and WWC proceeded to validate the City's Assessment.

On February 26, 2025, the City was awarded Bloomberg Philanthropies What Works Cities Silver Certification for establishing exceptional data capabilities to inform policy, allocate funding, improve services, evaluate programs, and engage residents. Winnipeg was one of the first four Canadian cities to receive this certification, along with Calgary, Edmonton, and Hamilton.

While not a full benchmark of Open Government, the WWC Certification provides a framework in which to report the City's accomplishments and progress in Open Government and Open Data. The City's work described in this report has contributed to its Silver Certification.

Within the WWC foundational area of data management are two of the City's key initiatives for Open Government: Access to Information and Protection of Privacy, and Public Engagement.

Access to Information and Protection of Privacy

The City publishes records of interest to the public both proactively and in response to requests submitted under The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("FIPPA").

- In April 2025, the City updated Administrative Standard No. AS-015 on Access to Information and Protection of Privacy.
- In May 2025, the Access and Privacy General Procedures went live for employees on CityNet.
- The City's employee course "Employee Obligations under FIPPA and the Personal Health Information Act was updated to reflect the General Procedures and changes to AS-015. Work continues to convert the training to an online module by later this year which will enable more people to fit the training into their learning plans.
- The Access and Privacy Office (APO) received 2,046 FIPPA requests in 2025. This was an eight percent increase over the previous year. As in previous years, the most common requests were for copies of police reports (65 percent) and fire reports (15 percent). Two percent of requests (44) were resolved as Publicly Available, either through the website or existing procedures.
- The City's Key Performance Indicators (80 percent) for "Requests responded to within the legislated 45 days" was exceeded (95 percent).
- The FIPPA Request Responses Open Data dataset is regularly updated.

Public Engagement

The Office of Public Engagement provides residents with information on projects that are taking place across the city, and details on upcoming public engagement opportunities.

- The City regularly invites the public to provide input on City projects through Engage Winnipeg. For example, in March 2025, residents were asked for feedback during development of the Greenspace Plan and Biodiversity Policy. In June 2025, residents were invited to provide input on a draft design of a proposed recreation centre for southeast Winnipeg.
- The City conducted the Annual Resident Satisfaction Survey, shared the resulting report, and updated the Annual Resident Satisfaction Survey Open Data dataset.

Open Data

The City's Open Data Program fits within WWC's foundational area of open data. The core priority of the Open Data Program is the maintenance of existing, and release of new, City datasets. An increasing trend in the count of Open Data datasets is a key performance indicator in the Corporate Strategic Plan.

- As of the date of this report, the Open Data Portal has 264 total datasets and maps published to the public, including 210 unique datasets and 54 maps based on datasets.
- Since September 2024, 37 new Open Data datasets have been released to the public (see **Table 1**).

Table 1. Released Open Data datasets since September 2024

Dataset	Release Date
Downtown Community Safety Partnership Incident Responses	2024-12-12
City of Winnipeg Electricity and Natural Gas Utility Data	2024-12-16
Street Pavement Surface Conditions	2024-12-19
Short Term Rental Accommodations	2025-01-03
Building permit application processing times - intake	2025-02-03
Building permit application processing times - review	2025-02-03
Licensed Contractors	2025-02-07
Building permit intake - applications approved/not approved	2025-04-01
Building permit review - applications approved/not approved	2025-04-01
Community Safety Officer Hours on the Bus	2025-04-04
Community Safety Safe Rides	2025-04-04
Community Safety Engagements	2025-04-04
311 Requests	2025-04-15
OurWPG Airport Area	2025-04-29
OurWPG Employment Lands	2025-04-29
OurWPG Major Redevelopment Site	2025-04-29
OurWPG Mature Community	2025-04-29
OurWPG New Community	2025-04-29
OurWPG Precinct	2025-04-29
OurWPG Recent Community	2025-04-29
OurWPG Regional Mixed Use Centre	2025-04-29
OurWPG Regional Mixed Use Corridor	2025-04-29

OurWPG Rural Agricultural	2025-04-29
OurWPG Urban Mixed Use Corridor	2025-04-29
Building occupancy permit application processing times - intake	2025-05-14
Building occupancy permit application processing times - review	2025-05-14
Development permit application processing times - intake	2025-05-14
Development permit application processing times - review	2025-05-14
Development permit intake - applications approved/not approved	2025-05-14
Development permit review – applications approved/not approved	2025-05-14
Public Opinion Research on Winnipeg Climate Action	2025-06-12
Higher Poverty Areas From the 2021 Census	2025-07-14
Swimming Pool Indoor	2025-07-29
Swimming Pool Outdoor	2025-07-29
Swimming Pool Spray Pad	2025-07-29
Swimming Pool Wading	2025-07-29
Accessibility Disruptions	2025-08-29

- On December 20, 2024, the City's Open Data Portal added a link to "Request a new dataset" in the header bar of the Portal, making it easier for the public to submit their requests. The Contact Open Data form was also updated.
- On March 1, 2025, Open Data Day, the City cohosted the 2025 Open Data Datathon, the first such event since 2022. Nearly 200 attendees registered for the event, and 20 teams competed.
- During the Open Data Datathon, the Government of Canada's Open Government team hosted a public consultation event in Winnipeg as part of their public engagement process for the 6th National Action Plan on Open Government.
- On June 24, 2025, the Open Data Tutorial Video, originally published on January 12, 2022, was replaced with a series of vendor-supplied Tutorial Videos to continue to serve the public with updated content.
- On July 3, 2025, the City launched a new employee course "Introduction to Open Data". As of the date of this report, 40 employees have completed the training.

The Open Data Portal measures the quality of its own datasets in the Data Quality Score dataset. Each public dataset is evaluated based on a variety of topics and assigned a score between 0 and 100. Scores between 0-70 are assigned Bronze, 71-80 are Silver, and 81-100 are Gold. The Open Data team works to continually improve the quality of the datasets in the Portal.

- As of the date of this report, the Open Data Portal includes 37 (17.6 percent) Gold quality datasets, 16 (7.6 percent) Silver, and 157 (74.8 percent) Bronze.

Data-Driven Budget and Finance

Within the WWC foundational area of data-driven budget and finance are accomplishments related to aligning the budget with strategic goals and ensuring community engagement processes to surface budget priorities from residents in support of Open Government and Open Data:

- On December 18, 2024, the City invited residents to provide feedback on the preliminary budget through a budget survey, by submitting written comments, or attending a committee meeting as a delegation. The City then presented what they heard from residents on the 2025 budget through a public engagement report and appendices.
- The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded Winnipeg a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the eighth year in a row. The award recognized the City's work on the 2025 budget. The award is given to budgets that meet nationally recognized guidelines for communicating a government's policies, financial plans, and operations to the public.

Results-Driven Contracting

The City works to make its purchasing processes more open, accountable, and responsive, and these efforts fit within the WWC foundational area of results-driven contracting:

- The City's Open and Closed Solicitations are posted publicly and updated regularly on MERX. Closed Bid Opportunity Information is also posted on the City's website.
- Through a phased-in and iterative approach, the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan is working to enhance fair, open and transparent purchasing across all four pillars of Sustainable Procurement: environmental, ethical, social, and Indigenous.

Stakeholder and Community Impact

The WWC foundational area of stakeholder and community impact includes accomplishments related to using City data and analytics services to serve residents. Within this foundational area, the City highlights the many ways it is using technology and innovation to improve services.

- In Winter 2024/2025, the City's new snow operations map combined information about snow clearing plans, winter parking bans, and plowing status on streets, pathways, and sidewalks. The map was built to help residents get more information about winter operations and more quickly.
- On February 14, 2025, the City replaced a series of monthly 311 Performance Metric Charts in Open Data with an interactive Open Data based application for 311 Performance Data. This update reduced the monthly workload for City employees and enhanced the user experience for the public.
- On February 25, 2025, the City launched a new webpage for accessibility disruption notices to help residents find information about the availability of accessibility features at City facilities.
- On May 7, 2025, the City began its annual mosquito control program and shared information throughout the summer with the public about the mosquito trap counts in residential areas and updated the Daily Adult Mosquito Trap Data Open Data dataset.
- On May 12, 2025, the City launched an AI Chatbot to improve access to information on City services. The City will test the Chatbot during a pilot phase and use feedback from users to evaluate the Chatbot and decide its future.
- On June 23, 2025, the City launched an improved Permits Online web portal. This one-stop shop to manage the permit process makes the process more convenient for applicants.

Upcoming Initiatives

Going forward, the Public Service will:

- Continue to work toward WWC Gold Certification by earning more criteria. Striving for higher levels of certification will guide the City to use information and data to inform policy decisions, allocate funding, improve services, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and engage residents.
- Sustain the current Open Data catalog, publish additional datasets as they become available, and improve the quality of published data while containing costs to provide the service.
- Update more services with Open Data based applications to improve efficiency, effectiveness and experience for residents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: October 23, 2025

Project Name:

Open Government and Open Data Annual Report

COMMENTS:

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

Randy Bernard

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

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Access and Privacy Office
- Open Data Steering Committee

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Goal: Leadership and Good Governance

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.

1.10 Representative and Participatory Democracy: Facilitate civic engagement and work towards co-creation opportunities that achieve local democratic participation from a representative and demographically diverse population.

1.11 Representative and Participatory Democracy: Create meaningful engagement opportunities with residents, stakeholders and rightsholders, who are interested in or impacted by a decision. Develop standards for engagement including notification, information-sharing, and a process for incorporating feedback into decision-making.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Goal 6: All City Services are Equitable, Inclusive and Accessible
Objective C: Use of City's tools and resources are maximized to reduce systemic inequities.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Innovation & Technology
Division: Innovation & Technology for Corporate Services
Prepared by: J. Bodnarchuk
Date: October 24, 2025