

Background

The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) acts as a conduit to address perceived barriers at The City of Calgary that business stakeholders face in their everyday operations. The BAC continues to provide insights and perspectives from across a variety of business sectors to guide and support Administration in delivering services in an efficient and effective manner.

Context

The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) Working Group includes several external stakeholders and is responsible for:

1. Bringing forth perceived barriers that business stakeholders face in their everyday operations, and opportunities for discussion;
2. Providing input into the plans and presentations they will receive from Administration on work being done to become more business friendly;
3. Sharing updates with the broader community of business owners and investors once solutions or service improvements have been determined and implemented; and
4. Providing insight, advice, and recommend service improvements to the Business Advisory Committee, representing the customer perspective.

The Business Advisory Committee recommended the establishment of a Task Force at the 2021 July 5 Combined Meeting of Council. This report includes terms of reference to formally establish the Task Force as a subcommittee. The Task Force's responsibilities are:

1. Advocacy
 - Serve as a conduit to the business community to share their immediate needs with BAC and the working group; and
 - Make recommendations to BAC on short and medium-term solutions to support businesses.
2. Communication
 - Advise on and implement ongoing communications to various types of businesses;
 - Advise on and implement marketing strategies to immediately support businesses; and
 - Advise on and implement communications to Calgarians regarding business support.

Previous Council Direction

The Business Advisory Committee Q4 2019 – Q1 2020 Timeline and Work Plan and the amended Terms of Reference (BAC2019-1193) were approved at the 2019 September 30 Combined Meeting of Council. The Business Advisory Committee Q4 2019 – Q1 2020 Work Plan identified several opportunities to prioritize perceived system barriers. Three priorities were identified:

1. Restaurants and Breweries: Importance of being more responsive with timelines. Municipal and Provincial collaboration.
2. Change of Use: Stakeholders would like a focus on streamlining process and permitting.
3. Industrial Land: Ensuring City industrial land remains regionally competitive.

At the Combined Meeting of Council on 2019 June 17, Council directed the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) to review Report PFC2019-0384, which further detailed the Social Procurement Pilot project concepts, application by other municipalities, along with an implementation work plan strategy for The City to consider. For further analysis of the report, Council requested BAC provide an opinion with respect to the Social Procurement Pilot project relative to The City and the continuance of the initiative. The Business Advisory Committee provided an opinion on Social Procurement (BAC2019 -1524) at the Combined Meeting of Council 2019 December 16.

At the Combined Meeting of Council on 2021 March 1, Council approved \$30 million (\$8 million from the originally approved 2021 property tax rebate and \$22 million from the Fiscal Stability Reserve) for direct relief to businesses impacted by COVID-19. Council directed Administration, through the COFLEX program, with input from the Business Advisory Committee, to develop options for how best to deploy these funds. BAC provided input (C2021-0422) at the Combined Meeting of Council 2021 March 22.

At the Combined Meeting of Council on 2021 May 31, Council adopted a Motion Arising with respect to Report C2021-0725 that directed the Business Advisory Committee to continue to conduct consultations with different sectors of businesses including personal wellness services and continue to bring opportunities for support to Council.

At the Combined Meeting of Council on 2021 July 5, Council received the Business Advisory Committee report BAC2021-0956 for the Corporate Record. The report contained proposed amendments to the Business Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference to establish the Business Sector Task Force as a subcommittee of the BAC, but these amendments were neither debated nor adopted. The report also contained a timeline of the BAC's completed work plan for 2018 through 2021 and noted that the BAC continues to work with Administration to improve the Change of Use process.

At the Combined Meeting of Council on 2021 December 20, Council directed Administration to consult with business owners through the Business Advisory Committee to develop specific criteria for dogwalker permits to be issued under Bylaw 75M2021 (Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw).

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
12/20/2021	CD2021-1664	Professional Dog Walker Permit within the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw – Council directed Administration to consult with business owners through the Business Advisory Committee to develop specific criteria for dogwalker permits to be issued under Bylaw 75M2021 (Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw).
07/05/2021	BAC2021-0956	Business Advisory Committee Update to Council – Council received this report for the Corporate Record.
05/31/2021	C2021-0725	Additional Options for Targeted Relief to Business Impacted by COVID-19 - Council adopted a Motion Arising with respect to Report C2021-0725 that directed the Business Advisory Committee to continue to conduct consultations with different sectors of businesses including personal wellness services and continue to bring opportunities for support to Council.
03/01/2021	C2021-0422	Options for Targeted Relief to Business Impacted by COVID-19 - Council approved \$30M for direct relief to businesses impacted by COVID-19. Council directed Administration, through the COFLEX program, with input from the Business Advisory Committee, to develop options for how best to deploy these funds.
12/16/2019	BAC2019-1524	Business Advisory Committee Opinion on Social Procurement - Council approved the Business Advisory Committee opinion on Social Procurement, 1) Continue with the Social Procurement Pilot project as considered in Report PFC2019-0384, 2) Reduce the number of pilot projects to two; and 3) Change the name of the Policy from Social Procurement Policy to Benefit Driven Procurement Policy.
09/30/2019	BAC2019-1193	Business Advisory Committee update to Council - Council approved the Business Advisory Committee Timeline and Work Plan and amended Terms of Reference.
06/17/2019	PFC2019-0384	Social Procurement Policy Implementation - Council adopted, through a Motion Arising, “that Council request the Business Advisory Committee to consider Report PFC2019-0384 and provide an opinion to Council no later than Q4 2019”, which further detailed the Social Procurement Pilot project concepts, application by other municipalities, along with an implementation work plan strategy for The City to consider. For further analysis of the report, Council requested BAC provide an opinion with respect to the Social Procurement Pilot project relative to The City and continuance of the initiative.