



## Council Policy

**Policy Title:** Council Policy Program  
**Policy Number:** CP2024-08  
**Report Number:** LGT2015-0900  
**Adopted by/Date:** Council / 2015 December 07  
**Effective Date:** 2016 January 01  
**Last Amended:** N/A  
**Policy Owner:** Corporate Governance

### 1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 The City of Calgary Council (Council) adopts Council policies to promote good governance and ensure a consistent and transparent provision and operation of services, programs, and facilities that are either necessary or desirable for The City of Calgary.
- 1.2 The Corporate Governance service is responsible for the administration and management of the Council Policy Program.
- 1.3 Council policies must be developed, amended, approved, maintained, reviewed, and rescinded in accordance with the procedures established in this Council policy.
- 1.4 Council policies must be available to Council, City Administration, and the general public to promote accountability, transparency, and openness.

### 2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 This Council policy establishes procedures for:
  - 2.1.1 developing, amending, approving, publishing, maintaining and rescinding Council policies; and
  - 2.1.2 a formal review of existing Council policies.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 In this Council policy:
  - a. "Administration Policy" means a written policy that has been approved by the Administration Leadership Team, focuses on the internal workings of The City as

a corporation, primarily impacts and addresses City employees and contractors. It states the minimum standards employees must follow;

- b. “Amending” means a substantive change to an existing Council policy that alters the meaning of any or all of the Council policy statement, purpose, applicability, responsibility or procedures;
- c. “Council policy” means a written policy that has been adopted by Council and provides strategic direction on governance, programs and services provided by The City of Calgary;
- d. “Council Policy Library” means an on-line repository of Council policies adopted by Council;
- e. “Executive Leadership Team” means the most senior group of The City of Calgary Administrative officials;
- f. “Policy Owner” means The City of Calgary service primarily responsible for the development, maintenance, and review of a Council policy. For the purpose of administering this Council policy, Policy Owner also means the Office of the Mayor, Council Services division and the City Auditor; and
- g. “Rescinding” means to withdraw an existing Council policy in its entirety that is outdated, superseded by a new Council policy, or has been combined with another Council policy.

#### **4. APPLICABILITY**

4.1 This Council policy:

4.1.1 Applies to all Council policies at The City of Calgary; and

4.1.2 Does not apply to Administration policies at The City of Calgary.

#### **5. LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

5.1 Pursuant to Paragraph 201(1)(a) of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000 c. M-26 (“MGA”), Council is responsible for developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality.

5.2 Pursuant to Section 153(b) of the MGA, Councillors have the duty to participate generally in developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality.

## **6. PROCEDURE**

### **6.1 Developing or Amending a Council Policy**

- 6.1.1 Council may identify a municipal issue, objective or priority, and direct the development of a new Council policy or a review and amendment to an existing Council policy.
- 6.1.2 Any Standing Policy Committee, the Executive Committee, the Chief Administration Officer, the General Managers, the City Auditor's Office, Office of the Mayor and Council Services division may recommend to Council that a new Council policy, or an amendment to an existing Council policy, is required.
- 6.1.3 Policy Owners must research, develop, and draft proposed Council policies or proposed amendments to existing Council policies as directed.
- 6.1.4 Proposed Council policies or proposed amendments to existing Council policies must be prepared using the Council Policy Template.

### **6.2 Council Policy Approval Process**

- 6.2.1 Proposed Council policies or proposed amendments to existing Council policies:
  - a. Must be forwarded to the Corporate Governance service for review;
  - b. May be forwarded to the Executive Leadership Team for information if the Council policy is developed by the Office of the Mayor, Council Services division, by resolution of Council under Section 6.1.1 above or the City Auditor;
  - c. Must be forwarded to the Executive Leadership Team, if the Council policy is developed by a City of Calgary Business Unit, for endorsement in the case of corporate and/or city wide significance;
  - d. Must be forwarded to the Executive Leadership Team, if the Council policy is developed by a City of Calgary Business Unit, for information in all other cases; and

e. Must be forwarded to the appropriate Standing Policy Committee or Executive Committee prior to being submitted to Council.

6.2.2 Council is the final decision-making authority with respect to Council policies, and adopts or rejects recommendations for proposed new or amended Council policies.

6.2.3 Once a proposed Council policy or a proposed amendment to an existing Council policy is adopted by Council, the Policy Owner will:

a. Incorporate any additional amendments made by Council; and

b. Submit the final adopted Council policy to Corporate Governance.

### **6.3 Rescinding a Council Policy**

6.3.1 Council may direct that any Council policy be rescinded.

6.3.2 Any Standing Policy Committee or the Executive Committee, the Chief Administration Officer, the General Managers, the City Auditor's Office, Office of the Mayor and Council Services division may recommend to Council that a Council policy be rescinded.

6.3.3 Proposals to rescind an existing Council policy:

a. Must be forwarded to the Corporate Governance service for review;

b. May be forwarded to the Executive Leadership Team for information if the Council policy is developed by the Office of the Mayor, Council Services division, by resolution of Council under Section 6.1.1 above or the City Auditor;

c. Must be forwarded to the Executive Leadership Team, if the Council policy is developed by a City of Calgary Business Unit, for endorsement in the case of corporate and/or city wide significance;

d. Must be forwarded to the Executive Leadership Team, if the Council policy is developed by a City of Calgary Business Unit, for information in all other cases; and

- e. Must be forwarded to the appropriate Standing Policy Committee or Executive Committee prior to being submitted to Council.

6.3.4 Council is the final decision-making authority with respect to Council policies, and adopts or rejects recommendations to rescind a Council policy.

#### **6.4 Publication of Council Policies**

6.4.1 The Corporate Governance service will manage the Council Policy Library, and will:

- a. Maintain a record of Council policies adopted or rescinded by Council, and any subsequent revisions and amendments; and
- b. Publish and un-publish Council policies in the on-line Council Policy Library.

#### **6.5 Maintenance of Council Policies**

6.5.1 It is the responsibility of Policy Owners to maintain their Council policies, periodically reviewing them and providing Council with recommendations to amend or rescind existing Council policies, as required.

#### **6.6 Formal Council Policy Review**

6.6.1 Council policies must undergo a formal Council policy review every 4 years to determine relevance and alignment with Council's objectives, priorities and resolutions.

6.6.2 The Corporate Governance service will initiate a formal Council policy review every 4 years as follows:

- a. Policy Owners must review all of their existing Council policies in the first year of the formal Council policy review, and bring forward to Council proposals to amend or rescind Council policies, as required;
- b. For those Council policies requiring amending or rescinding, but which cannot be carried out in the first year of the formal Council policy review, Policy Owners must establish a timeline for completion prior to the next formal Council policy review;

- c. Policy Owners must report the timeline for completion to the Corporate Governance service in the first year of the formal Council policy review; and
- d. The Corporate Governance service will report on the outcomes of the formal Council policy review, through the Executive Committee, in the first and fourth year of the formal Council policy review.

**7. SCHEDULE(S)**

**8. AMENDMENT(S)**

Date of Council Decision	Report / Bylaw	Description
None		

**9. REVIEW(S)**

Date of Policy Owner's Review	Description
2024 June 18	As directed by EC2022-0828, changed responsibilities and ownership to reflect this change. Also updated policy number, titles, committee names, and team names. Removed schedule A.
2017 January 02	At the 2016 September 12 Combined Meeting of Council, Council disbanded the Legislative Governance Task Force, effective 2016 December 31. Any reference to the Legislative Governance Task Force has been deleted from this Council policy, and where applicable, been replaced with the Priorities and Finance Committee (PFC).