



Report Number: EC2024-1130

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2024 October 02

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Strengthening Transparency: Improving Engagement with Calgarians

Sponsoring Member(s) of Council: Terry Wong, Andre Chabot, Sonya Sharp

WHEREAS The City of Calgary demonstrates its commitment to Calgarians and other communities or groups that engagement is a process that allows for purposeful dialogue between The City, impacted or interested Calgarians and other communities or groups to gather information to influence decision-making on City-led projects.

AND WHEREAS Council's Engage Policy (CP2023-05) recognizes that decisions are improved when The City conducts engagement with Calgarians and other communities or groups who are impacted or interested in those decisions and that it assigns a high priority to engage with those who may be impacted or are interested in a project early on and throughout the process, especially when the decisions impact their lives.

AND WHEREAS Section 2.3.7 of the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) states that Calgarians should be provided with opportunities to participate in shaping the future of their community including the following policies:

- a. *“Recognize that community planning processes are critical implementation tools for refining and realizing the vision the MDP.*
- b. *Work with the broad public and local community groups in planning for the future of local neighbourhoods.*
- c. *Provide effective community consultation and participation in projects of significance to The City and local communities.*
- d. *Ensure that engagement on planning processes is responsible, thorough and transparent.”*

AND WHEREAS The City is committed to engagement processes that are responsive, inclusive, transparent, and accountable, where appropriate and financially viable.

AND WHEREAS The City of Calgary is an ever-changing and growing municipality that strives for continuous improvement in providing opportunities for Calgarians to participate, contribute ideas and understand how their feedback was considered in the decision-making process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council direct Administration to:

Contract an independent, third-party consultant accredited in public participation to:

- conduct an analysis of The City's policy and approach to public participation and engagement through public feedback and validation in contrast to industry best practices in public participation and engagement (e.g., IAP2).
- identify lessons learned and develop opportunities to improve public participation and engagement with Calgarians.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this work is not resourced and funded currently and therefore Administration bring forward an amendment to the Mid-Cycle Adjustments to the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets for Council's consideration to fund and resource the above work.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Administration report back with an update to City Council through Executive Committee no later than Q2 2025, including how the completed work will strengthen transparency and public trust, improve decision-making through more consistent and meaningful input, reduce disputes and rework, and support accountability and continuous improvement in engagement practices.