

LEGISLATIVE GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE 2014-2017 Q2 WORK PLAN PROGRESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents an update on the progress of the Legislative Governance Task Force 2014-2017 Work Plan.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Legislative Governance Task Force recommend that Council approve the updated Legislative Governance Task Force 2014 – 2014 Work Plan.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

At the 2014 May 26 Regular Meeting of Council, Council approved the Legislative Governance Task Force 2014 – 2017 Work Plan and directed that the City Clerk's Office report quarterly, starting in Q3, on its progress.

BACKGROUND

The Legislative Governance Task Force (LGTF) provides recommendations to Council to improve legislative governance at The City of Calgary. The LGTF meets monthly, and is focused on the following priorities: (1) making Council more accessible and transparent to the public; (2) making the Council decision-making process more efficient; and (3) increasing accountability.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The work completed to date has been updated on the LGTF 2014 – 2017 Work Plan (Attachment).

At the 2015 May 11 Combined Meeting of Council, Council adopted an amended *Gifts and Benefits Policy for Members of Council* in order to provide greater clarity and guidance on event attendance and disclosure requirements. In addition, Council approved Administration's recommendation to develop a proposed Council policy on fundraising and ward events. This recommendation is rooted in a discussion, held at the 2015 March 03 Meeting of the LGTF, on the need to bring further clarity on acceptance of money. Members of Council are often called upon to support and encourage donations to various charities, not-for-profit organizations and community groups. A Council policy on fundraising and ward events would provide Members of Council with guidance as well as a consistent process for the acceptance, tracking and disclosure of monetary donations. The associated work timeline is detailed in the Attachment.

At the 2015 March 03 Meeting of the Legislative Governance Task Force, the following motion was adopted:

“REFER, Moved by Councillor Chabot, that Report LGT2014-0933, be referred to the City Clerk's Office, to return to the Legislative Governance Task Force no later than 2015 Quarter 2, following Council's decision on the Mayor's Innovation Fund application to advance the work plan for the Legislative Governance Task Force”.

At the 2015 March 30 Regular Meeting of Council, Council approved the Council Innovation Fund Application – Legislative Governance Task Force Work Plan Implementation Project, in the amount of \$350,000 over two years. Council's approval of the Council Innovation Fund

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Application has shifted the work timeline for item #1 (Boards, Commissions and Committees) and item #4 (Procedure Bylaw). The LGTF 2014 – 2017 Work Plan has been updated accordingly (Attachment).

The City Clerk's Office, Citizen Recognition and Protocol, is currently reviewing a number of Council policies related to protocol. As work progresses on reviewing and updating these Council policies, depending on priorities and available resources, City Clerk's Office will bring them forward for approval through the LGTF and will update the work plan as appropriate.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

None.

Strategic Alignment

This Council policy aligns with Council's priority of a well-run City: "Calgary's government is open, responsive, accountable and transparent, delivering excellent services at a fair price. We work with our government partners to ensure we have the tools we need" (Action Plan 2015-2018).

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

In adopting the amendments to the *Gifts and Benefits Policy for Members of Council*, and in directing the development of Council policy on fundraising and ward events, Council is taking a further step in promoting accountability and transparency.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

To date, all work on the LGTF 2014 – 2017 Work Plan has been carried out by City Clerk's internal resources. At the 2015 March 30 Regular Meeting of Council, Council approved an allocation of \$350,000 from the Council Innovation Fund to complete the items related to Boards, Commissions and Committees and the Procedure Bylaw No. 44M2006.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no current and future capital budget implications.

Risk Assessment

Failure to complete the work detailed in the LGTF 2014 – 2017 Work Plan exposes The City of Calgary to a number of risks: (1) failure to adhere to Council policies, (2) confusion and misalignment between Council policies and existing practice, (3) maintaining outdated Council policies which do not keep pace with leading practices in legislative governance, and (4) inadequate transparency and accountability. Such risks do not allow The City of Calgary to achieve its priority of becoming a well-run City.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The City Clerk's Office reports quarterly on the progress of the Legislative Governance Task Force 2014 – 2017 Work Plan, and requires approval of the amended timelines in order to deliver on legislative governance initiatives at The City of Calgary.

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ATTACHMENT(S)

Legislative Governance Task Force 2014 – 2017 Work Plan