



Mayor's Office Report to
Legislative Governance Task Force
2013 February 28

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LGT2013-0257
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LEGISLATIVE GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE WORK PLAN FOR 2013
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Substantial progress has been made over the past two years towards fulfilling the mandate and completing the Legislative Governance Task Force (LGTF) work plan. Should the LGTF recommend to Council the current items on the February 28, 2013 agenda, the current work plan will almost be exhausted. The LGTF must contemplate its future and provide direction to Administration as to whether there is further work for the LGTF to conduct in 2013 or if it is time to wrap-up the LGTF's activities for this term.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Legislative Governance Task Force either:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Give direction to the City Clerk on a work plan for 2013; or
3. If the LGTF has determined that there is no more work to be conducted in 2013 that the LGTF's terms of reference be updated and then the LGTF's work be suspended until after the 2013 municipal election.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On January 24, 2011 Council established the LGTF with specific Terms of Reference. Over the past two years the LGTF has developed and implemented a work plan. On October 24, 2011, it was directed by Council that the LGTF's current membership stay on, despite changes of SPC Chairs after the Organizational Meeting, until the work of the committee was complete.

Direction and Terms of Reference of the LGTF are below:

Terms of Reference: The Primary purpose of the Task Force is to provide appropriate recommendations with respect to The City of Calgary's Legislative Governance practices.

These Terms of Reference provide for a Task Force of the Priorities and Finance Committee (PFC) the responsibility of making recommendations to PFC to improve legislative governance at The City of Calgary.

The Task Force shall be focused on the following priorities:

1. Making Council more accessible and transparent to the public
2. Making Council decisions more efficient.
3. Increasing Accountability.

Reports To: Priorities and Finance Committee (PFC)

Notes: 2011 October 24 - Direct that the current membership of the Legislative Governance Task Force be extended until the work of the Committee is complete. As such, the membership is still made up of the 'old' Chairs of the SPC's.

BACKGROUND

The LGTF has met eight times over the past two years and has delivered a number of reports and policy changes to Council improving governance, ethics, accountability and transparency. For example: The SPC Committees mandates' have been reviewed and changed; Amendments to Council's Procedure By-laws approved, Review of Council Members' role on external boards; New transparency and accountability policy approved; and new policy on Members of Council and their conduct during elections. Upon review, the majority the LGTF's work plan has been completed as of February 28, 2013.

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INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Possible work for LGTF in 2013 includes:

1. Land & Financial/Pecuniary Interest Registry
2. Meeting and Expenses Disclosure
3. Disclosure Bylaw
4. Updated Terms of Reference of LGTF

The City Clerks' Office reports that beyond work on a Disclosure Bylaw, the City Clerks' Office will require additional resources and funding as they do not have resources assigned to undertake large, new projects at this time.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Discussion between the City Clerk's Office and the Mayor's Office occurred and a review of the current LGTF work plan was conducted. This review found that the work plan was almost complete and direction was needed from the members of the LGTF on the future of the LGTF. Ideas were suggested for possible work for 2013 and those are included within this report to spark discussion.

Strategic Alignment

This report has been reviewed for alignment with The City of Calgary's Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Policy Framework. No implications were identified.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

No implications were identified.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

This report seeks direction for next steps of work; there are no budget implications at this time, however any work beyond the disclosure bylaw this year will require resources and funding as the Clerks' Office does not have resources assigned.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

This report seeks direction for next steps of work; there are no budget implications at this time.

Risk Assessment

No significant risks are associated with this report.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The current work plan is nearly exhausted and Administration requires direction on future work of the Legislative Governance Task Force.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None