

OPEN DATA INITIATIVE AUDIT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City Auditor's Office issued the Open Data Initiative Audit Report to Administration on August 22, 2018. The report includes Administration's response to seven recommendations raised by the City Auditor's Office. Administration accepted all recommendations and has committed to the implementation of action plans no later than December 31, 2019. The City Auditor's Office will track the implementation of these commitments as part of our ongoing follow-up process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Audit Committee receive this report for information; and
2. That Audit Committee recommend that Council receive this report for information.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE, DATED 2018 SEPTEMBER 18 :

That Council receive this Report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

Bylaw 30M2004 (as amended) established the position of City Auditor and the powers, duties and functions of the position. Under the City Auditor's Office Charter, the City Auditor presents an annual risk-based audit plan to Audit Committee for approval. The City Auditor's 2017/18 plan was approved on 10 November 2016. The City Auditor is accountable to Council and subject to the oversight of Audit Committee under Bylaw 48M2012 (as amended).

BACKGROUND

The City of Calgary's Open Data Initiative supports the publication of City information as open data through a portal which is intended for use, reuse and redistribution by anyone under the simplified terms of an open data license. The City of Calgary's Open Data Initiative supports the City's position as an open government; enhancing transparency and taxpayer's participation; and improving services through innovation.

The Open Data Initiative audit was included in the 2017/2018 annual audit plan due to the high impact of reputational risk the initiative could have on The City. The objective of this audit was to evaluate the effectiveness of current processes and governance practices that support successful achievement of the City's Open Data Initiative goals, based on key criteria from a best practice document produced by Canada's Open Data Exchange¹. We assessed the effectiveness of current processes and governance of the Open Data Initiative which are in place to mitigate reputational risks related to data quality, security and noncompliance with Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP).

¹ Open Data Exchange: Open Data Blueprint - Helping municipalities think differently about open data.

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INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Results of our audit noted the Open Data Initiative governance practices and processes are effective to ensure completeness, accuracy, usability and adherence to FOIP for the published data. A complete data inventory of participating Business Units exists to determine dataset eligibility and priority. All data is published in machine readable format with metadata² and is maintained and updated on a regular basis.

However, the current open data strategy lacks clarity on long term objectives and vision, and without a clear vision and long term objectives the City may either overinvest or underinvest limited resources in this initiative. In addition, key performance indicators relevant to the achievement of the Open Data Initiative's objectives, and Open Data Initiative's costs and benefits are not established to measure if key objectives and targets are met. Two recommendations were raised to further enhance the open data strategy and to define, track and report performance measures related to the Open Data Initiative's objectives.

Five additional recommendations were included in the report to support improved governance reporting; customer feedback process; and clarification of roles and responsibilities for data stewards.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

This audit was conducted with Corporate Analytics and Innovation, as the principal audit contact within Administration.

Strategic Alignment

Audit reports assist Council in its oversight of the City Manager's administration and accountability for stewardship over public funds and achievement on value for money in City operations.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

N/A

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget

N/A

Current and Future Capital Budget

N/A

² Data that serves to provide context or additional information about other data.

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Risk Assessment

The activities of the City Auditor's Office serve to promote accountability, mitigate risk, and support an effective governance structure. Calgary's Open Data Initiative has gradually increased the amount of data available for public access since its launch in 2010. Future expansion of open data is planned. The publication of open data poses high impact reputational risk for The City. Accordingly, clear processes related to privacy concerns, FOIP compliance, and data quality management are critical to effectively mitigate associated reputational risk. Timely implementation of the committed action plans will further mitigate reputational risk and enhance the effectiveness of the Open Data Initiative.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Bylaw 48M2012 (as amended) states: "Audit Committee receives directly from the City Auditor any individual audit report and forwards these to Council for information."

ATTACHMENT

Open Data Initiative Audit - AC2018-1008