



City Council's Governance Framework for Council Committees

Edmonton

City Council, March 17, 2026
Office of the City Clerk

Building a Modern Governance Framework for Council Committees



What is a Civic Agency?

Civic Agencies are part of Council's **extended governance model**.



If Council makes an appointment, it is a Civic Agency



Receiving City funding alone does not make an entity a Civic Agency



If Council **does not** make an appointment, it is not a Civic Agency

Types of Civic Agencies

12	30+	3
Council Committees	External Agencies	Tribunals
Committee members appointed by Council to advise Council	Independent entities where Council appoints at least one member	Quasi-judicial bodies that hear appeals independently from Council

45+

Total Civic Agencies

Entities across the full extended governance model

Role of Council Committees

Committees DO

Research Issues

Deep-dive into topics on behalf of Council, bringing specialized knowledge and community insights

Develop Recommendations

Formulate evidence-based advice and recommendations for Council to consider

Provide Community and Subject Matter Perspectives

Include members with lived experience and expertise to inform discussions

Committees DON'T have

Decision Authority

Committees may make decisions only where authority has been delegated by Council

Most committees provide advice and recommendation to inform Council's decision making

Council is not bound to follow advice and recommendations

Budget Responsibility

Committees do not control City budget or allocate resources. These decisions remain with Council.

Governance Framework for Council Committees

The Framework strengthens how Council Committees support Council's decision-making.



Mandate Clarity

Committees must have a Council-approved mandate and operate within this defined scope and authority



Strategic Alignment

Committees must align their work and goals with Council priorities



Structured Governance

Committees submit a Terms-of-Reference and Two-Year Work plan. They also provide annual reports with progress updates

This ensures Committees remain relevant and accountable to Council

Why a Governance Framework?

**A Governance Framework aims
to improve:**



Consistency



Accountability



Mandate Clarity



**Alignment with
Council priorities**

The Framework introduces:



Lifecycle Reviews



**Standardized Mandates
& Governance Practices**



**Consistent Reporting
Expectations**

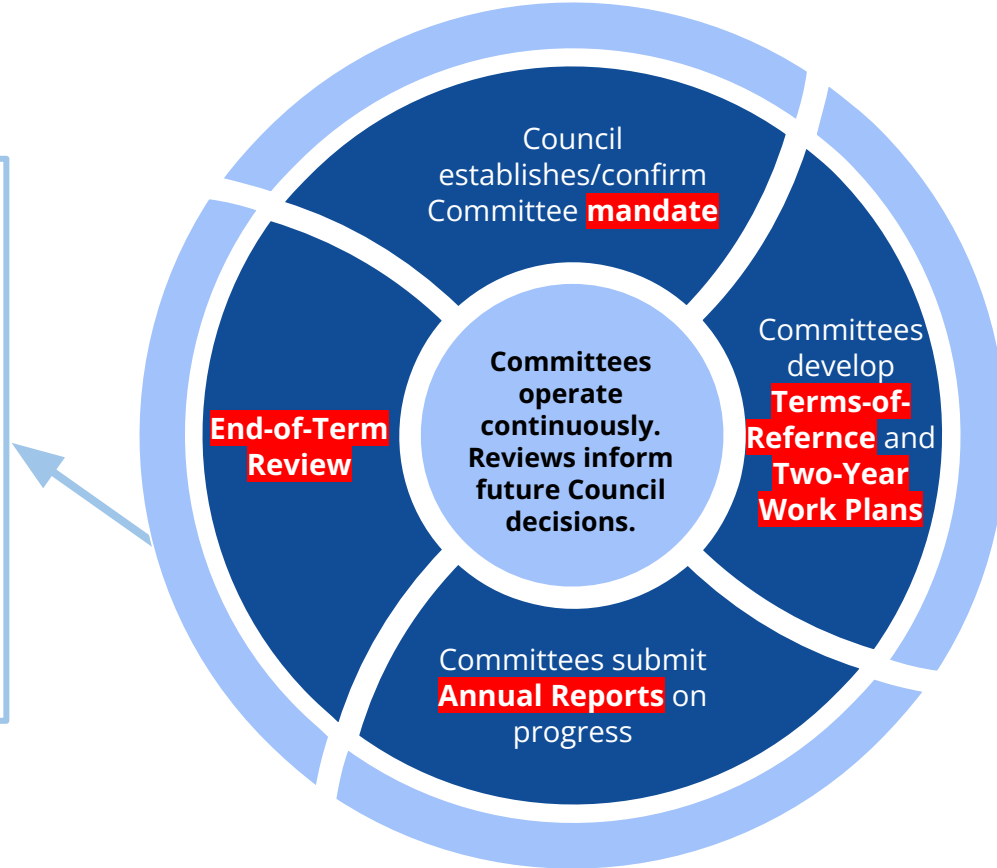
Governance Lifecycle & Tools

Every Council term, Committees are reviewed.

Council may decide to:

- Renew
- Restructure
- Sunset

Committees operate continuously unless Council decides otherwise.



What the Framework Does NOT Do

Eliminate Committees

- All Council Committees continue to operate across Council terms unless Council decides otherwise

Remove Public Members

- Public members remain integral community voices and are central to committee's purpose

Restricts Emerging Issues

- Committees can still flag and raise new issues outside their core work plan when they arise

Create Independent Entities

- Committees operate within Council's governance structure and provide advice to support Council's decision making

Roles in the Governance Model

City Council

- Establishes Council Committees
- Appoint Committee members
- Approve Committee mandates and Terms-of-Reference
- Reviews committee reports and recommendations

Standing Committee

- Make recommendations to City Council
- Supports committee membership recruitment
- Reviews committee's Membership Reports and Annual Reports

Councillor Advisor

- Act as liaison between the Committee and City Council
- Ensures alignment with Council priorities
- Provides guidance on context and Council direction
- Has no voting or decision making authority

Council Committees

- Provide advice and recommendations to Council
- Develop Terms-of-Reference and Two-Year Work Plan with Administration
- Submit Annual Reports on progress