

Council Committee Structure - Discussion

Recommendation:

That the July 7, 2010, Corporate Services Department report 2010COC091, be received for information.

Report Summary

This report provides information requested by Council and provides options for Council to consider how it wants to proceed with the review of its committee structure.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the May 11, 2010, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration provide a report to the July 7, 2010, City Council meeting, outlining minor adjustments to Council's current Committee structure to better align with the Council Vision.

Report

At the May 11, 2010, Council meeting, Administration presented to Council the current and a revised committee structure. After discussion, Council concluded that major change to its committee structure was not required and asked the City Clerk to provide minor adjustments so that the committees could better align with the Council Vision.

Realignment of the Committee Structure
Attachment 1 sets out the current Committee structure.

The suggested changes to better align committees with Council's vision are minor from both the legal and meeting perspective. However, they do create an opportunity to re-evaluate how reports are presented to Committee. The proposed changes are summarized below:

- Council's goals will be aligned to the current committee structure (Community Services, Transportation and Public Works and Executive).
- Departments will continue to report administrative issues, for example, contract approvals to the current committees.
- Agenda Review Committee will have the authority to move reports from one committee to another for the purpose of ensuring alignment to the goals.
- Departments will prepare reports from the corporate perspective, ensuring that the goal it is related to is clearly articulated at the start of each report.

Attachment 2 demonstrates the proposed new alignment.

Key Questions for Council to Consider
On May 11, 2010, members of Council and Administration indicated that there are several key questions that need to be answered before Council can determine if adjustments to the current structure are required. Attachment 3 states the key questions.

Council has not provided direction on what process it would like to use to make a decision about the key questions and its committee structure.

Direction to be Determined on July 7, 2010

Option A – Receive for Information

Council may choose to receive this report for information. If so, the current Committee structure will remain in place with no changes.

Option B – Set a date to discuss the Key Questions

Council may want to discuss the questions that arose during the May 11, 2010, meeting. If so, the following motion may be considered:

That the July 7, 2010, Corporate Services Department report 2010COC091 be referred to the (July 21, 2010; August 30, 2010; or September 15, 2010) City Council meeting for a facilitated discussion to be held in Heritage Room at a time specific to be determined by Agenda Review Committee with the following suspension of rules:

- section 54 – a motion on the floor is not required to debate an item
- section 124 – there is no limit to the number of times a Councillor can speak to an item
- section 127 – the Chair does not need to leave the chair to participate in debate

Option C – Bring Bylaw Amendments

Council may wish to ask Administration questions about the proposed alignment changes and if they agree with the changes, the following motion may be considered:

That Administration prepare for the September 15, 2010, City Council meeting, an amending bylaw for the Procedures and Committees Bylaw 12300 to implement the proposed changes to the committee structure.

Option D – Discuss Committee Structure after the Election

Council may choose to consider the alignment of the committee structure with Council's vision and the key questions following the 2010 General Election. If so, the following motion may be considered:

That Administration include a session during strategic planning council meetings after the General Election for Council to consider the alignment of the Committee structure with Council's Vision and to consider the Key Questions identified in Attachment 1 of the July 7, 2010, Corporate Services Department report 2010COC091.

Policy

All recommendations contained within this report comply with both the *Municipal Government Act* and Procedures and Committees Bylaw 12300.

Focus Area

This report addresses Council's priority of Governance, supports collaborative decision making and public engagement.

Legal Implications

If Council would like to make any changes to its Committee structure, amendments to the Procedures and Committees Bylaw 12300 will be prepared for Council's consideration.

Attachments

1. Current Committee Structure
2. Proposed Alignment
3. Key Questions