

Cloud Computing Audit

Recommendation

That the February 11, 2021, Office of the City Auditor report OCA00339, be received for information.

Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the Cloud Computing audit.

Report

Given the rapidly changing environment in which IT operations now exist, and the popularization of cloud computing as a model for IT services, the Office of the City Auditor performed an audit to evaluate the governance framework and operation of cloud services in place at the City. Cloud computing within the City is governed by a Cyber Security Administrative Directive.

The objectives of this audit were:

- To determine if the City's cloud computing policies are in line with best practices; and,
- To determine if there are any control deficiencies that could negatively impact the organization.

The governance framework in place relating to cloud computing, specifically the Cyber Security Administrative Directive and related standards and resource documents, was found to be aligned with best practices.

One document within the framework was found to be outdated, although still valid, and there is potential for improved communication with business areas relating to awareness of the governing framework. Two recommendations were made to address each of these issues.

The cloud services that we reviewed in detail were implemented prior to the governance framework, meaning there was a lower expectation around business areas having followed policies related to pre-implementation controls. Those services, however, should be complying with the governance framework as it applies to continued operation of the services.

We made one recommendation to ensure that operation of the services comply with the framework, or that Branch Managers (as staff accountable for use of the services) have acknowledged and accepted any risks related to non-compliance.

Administration has accepted the three recommendations and provided responses that are intended to address each of them.

Policy

Bylaw 16097, Audit Committee Bylaw, Section 14(d) states that, "Committee will review all reports from the City Auditor dealing with completed audit projects."

Public Engagement

Public engagement was not required for this report.

Attachment

1. Cloud Computing Audit Report