



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 15, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	City of Hamilton's Open Data Program Update (CM17009)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

An Information Report (Open and Accessible Data Policy Pilot Project - CM13012, July 10, 2013) was approved by Council in response to a Notice of Motion from August 9, 2011 to adopt Open Data, Open Standards and Open Source Software. This Information Report recommended the initiation of an Open Data program.

Within the 2016-2025 Strategic Plan the "Our People and Performance Plan" has been identified as a priority. Focus Area 4 "Performance Excellence and Accountability" of this Plan speaks to Delivering Open Data at the City. It focuses on:

- moving the City towards being a more open, transparent and accessible government
- making City of Hamilton information available publically as open data
- creating open data that is timely, meaningful and of high quality
- supporting the open data program with necessary technology and process

Following the Information Report in 2013, a set of open datasets were posted to the City's website at www.hamilton.ca/opendata.

The City of Hamilton is committed to being open and transparent with information to enhance services, encourage innovation and enable improved experience for residents, businesses and the public at large.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Information:

In early 2016, open data champions were identified by departments and the Committee was formed in May, 2016.

The Open Data Program

The City's Open Data program is based on Open Canada's Top 3 Principles:

- Government data should be easy to reuse and in open formats
- Government data should easily discoverable
- Government should engage citizens, especially to prioritize data for release

The goals of the Open Data Program are to:

- Enable the community to have access to City data easily and transparently
- Deliver Open Data that is meaningful and of high quality
- Build a sustainable Open Data program through the development of policies and growth backed by business processes to continually evolve and improve the Open Data delivery service

To support these program goals, several program objectives have been developed based on the Open Data Principles developed by the International Open Data Charter (<http://opendatacharter.net/>).

Open Data Advisory Committee

The Open Data Advisory Committee was established with representation from all city departments. The Committee is comprised of data champions who on behalf of their department lead and enable the release of municipal data in an open format. The Committee meets monthly and includes representatives from:

- Communications (Chair)
- Information Technology
- City Clerk's Office
- City Solicitor's Office (Legal)
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS - a subset of IT, Public Works, Planning)
- Hamilton Public Library
- Community & Emergency Services
- Corporate Services
- Planning & Economic Development
- Public Health
- Public Works

As per the Committee Terms of Reference, the Committee is working collectively to move the City's Open Data Program ahead and is guided by the City of Hamilton's commitment to an open, transparent government. To do so, members are:

- Acting as data champions/program advocates, internally and externally, to help ensure the success of the project
- Educating staff on the importance of ensuring that the City is seen as open, transparent and accessible to the needs of the community

The Committee's Executive Sponsors are:

- Jason Thorne, General Manager, Planning and Economic Development; and
- Andrea McKinney, Director, Communications and Corporate Initiatives.

Communications, with the support of Information Technology, are accountable for the Open Data Program.

Open Data Program Team

Communications and Information Technology formed an Open Data Program Team to operationalize the Open Data Program. This team, comprised of the necessary functions, have established a clear process and workflow for data to be submitted and released publically.

The Open Data program successes to date:

- Completed an environmental scan of more than a dozen municipalities, considered to be leaders in open data programs
- Added 12 new open datasets since May 2016; currently 64 open datasets are available
- Expanded the available format types to include XLS and CSV adding to the existing geometry formats (SHP, KML)
- Established an email account (opendata@hamilton.ca) to encourage and monitor feedback from the public
- Established
 - Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee
 - Roles and Responsibilities for the Program Team
 - Developed the submission process and protocols
 - Updated the Open Data Terms of Use/Licence

Next Steps for the Open Data Program

- Identify the gaps between the City's open dataset offerings and other municipalities

- Continue to educate staff on the importance of ensuring that the City is seen as open, transparent and accessible to the needs of the community
- Establish a release calendar to promote regular posting of open datasets
- Establish the process for external engagement

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