



LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Town of Newmarket

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CORPORATE SERVICES INFORMATION REPORT- LEGISLATIVE SERVICES – 2015-11

TO: Mayor Van Bynen and Members of Council

SUBJECT: Status Report, Review of Draft Council Code of Conduct

ORIGIN: Legislative Services

COMMENTS

This Information Report outlines the status activities undertaken to date and next steps regarding the review the Draft Council Code of Conduct (the Code). Pursuant to the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may request that an Information Report be included on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

Following an RFP for consulting services to review the Code issued April 9, 2015, EthicScan lead by Mr. David Nitkin was selected as the successful firm. Mr. Nitkin brings extensive experience developing policies, undertaking research, training and providing advice to a range of public and private sector organizations on ethics matters. He has also served in the capacity of a municipal Integrity Commissioner.


The review of the Code process involves three phases: Phase 1: interviews with internal stakeholders and related research; Phase 2: public consultation; and Phase 3: Council consideration of options and/or recommendations related to the Code.

Phase 1

The week of June 22, Mr. Nitkin held confidential interviews with individual Members of Council, senior staff and representatives of the Employee Relations and Internal Communications (ERIC) to identify individual perspectives and common themes related to Council Member conduct and ethics generally, and standards identified in the Code and related corporate policies. In addition, Mr. Nitkin is undertaking a review of Code related documentation and current municipal ethics regimes generally.

Phase 2

Public consultation will take the form of an interactive colloquium, confirmed for September 16, 2015, 7 p.m. at the Operations Centre, 1275 Maple Hill Court, Newmarket. The colloquium will be facilitated by Mr. Nitkin and his colleagues and involve collective and small



group discussions related to the Code generally and specific Code provisions related to spouses/partners of Members of Council, the inquiry/complaints procedure, the remediation and discipline framework, conflicts of interest, charity events and social media.

In addition to general public notice, individuals who previously provided input on the Code will be informed of the September 16 colloquium where contact information is on file. Members of Council are encouraged to invite individuals and groups who may have an interest in providing input on the Code to attend the September 16 colloquium.

Phase 3

Following public input, Mr. Nitkin will work with senior staff to refine the Code and related corporate policies and provide options and/or recommendations for input by Council at a Council Workshop, currently scheduled for October 19, 2015, 10 a.m. in the Council Chamber. Input from the Council Workshop will be used to inform final recommendations, to come forward at a Committee of the Whole meeting following the October 19, 2015 Council Workshop.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

The initiative relates to the Well-equipped and managed link of the Town's Community Vision- implementing policy and processes that reflect sound and accountable governance.

BUDGET IMPACT (CURRENT AND FUTURE)

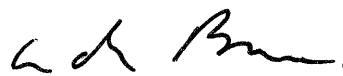
Consulting costs related to the review the draft Council Code of Conduct are accommodated within the contingency account (10911.4404.19).

CONTACT

For more information on this report, please contact Andrew Brouwer, Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk at abrouwer@newmarket.ca or at 905 953-5300, ext. 2211.



Anita Moore, Commissioner of Corporate Services



Andrew Brouwer, Director of Legislative Services / Town Clerk