

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012
FROM:	JEFF FIELDING CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT:	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE – FINAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the City Manager, the following actions be taken with respect to the Final Report of the Community Engagement Task Force:

- a) in accordance with Recommendation #1 of the Community Engagement Task Force, the attached proposed by-law (Appendix “A”) **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on January 31, 2012 for the purpose of implementing a new Council policy related to community engagement;
- b) in accordance with Recommendation #2 of the Community Engagement Task Force (attached as Appendix “B”), the Task Force’s Task Force mandate **BE EXTENDED** for up to an additional six months to complete the following tasks:
 - Elaborate on the use of the “empower” level of engagement (engagement from outside in, for example: community level strategic planning);
 - Conduct a comparative analysis of legislation and by-laws in other provinces and cities that support enhanced levels of community engagement;
 - Explore the concept of Civics 101 and how it can complement and enhance community engagement, including the development of curriculum and a delivery system (for example: London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy, volunteers, neighbour to neighbour, existing vehicles, etc.); and
- c) recommendations #3 – #13 of the Community Engagement Task Force (attached as Appendix “B”) **BE REFERRED** to staff for review and report back at a future meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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At its [January 18, 2010 meeting](#), Council resolved that “Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to report back to the appropriate Committee with respect to a review of public consultation processes and recommendations for improvements to the same.”

At its [July 26, 2010 meeting](#), Council received an update that outlined the steps taken to date and the proposed timeline of six to eight months to continue the internal and external consultations prior to a draft corporate Policy on Citizen Engagement being developed for Council’s approval.

At its [December 20, 2010](#) meeting, Council resolved that “Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to report back with draft terms of reference for a Citizen Engagement Task Force.”

In its [final report](#), the Governance Task Force identified citizen engagement as one principle of good governance and made three separate recommendations related to engagement.

At its March 30, 2011 meeting, Council approved [terms of reference](#) for the Community Engagement Task Force.

At its November 9, 2011 meeting, Committee of the Whole received an [update on activities](#) undertaken by the Community Engagement Task Force and draft policy on community engagement.

BACKGROUND

The mandate of the Community Engagement Task Force was to “research, review, and assess the work already undertaken and engage the public. The task force was then asked to work collaboratively with Civic Administration to develop and recommend to Council a policy on community engagement.”

DISCUSSION

Since the inaugural meeting of the CETF on May 14, 2011, task force members have been working on developing a draft Community Engagement Policy. The Policy, attached as Appendix “A”, represents the collective work of task force members as well as the results of a broader public consultation process.

The Community Engagement Task Force recommends that the attached next steps (Appendix “B”) are critical to ensure the successful implementation of the policy.

As outlined in the key success factors in the Policy, community engagement is a shared responsibility between the City and the community. As such, the Task Force has identified some important work that can and should be a collaborative effort between the City and community members. These three recommendations, listed below, are aimed at increasing our knowledge and efforts towards improved community engagement and can be completed with an extension of up to an additional six months in the mandate of the task force.

- Elaborate on the use of the “empower” level of engagement (engagement where citizens initiate and develop projects and/or make final decisions and/or implement the decisions);
- Conduct a comparative analysis of legislation and by-laws in other provinces and cities that support enhanced levels of community engagement;
- Explore the concept of Civics 101 and how it can complement and enhance community engagement, including the development of curriculum and a delivery system (for example: London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy, volunteers, neighbour to neighbour, existing vehicles, etc.).

CONCLUSION

Since May 2011, over 60 community and City staff members of the Community Engagement Task Force have drafted a Community Engagement Policy. The Task Force has completed the policy, along with a set of additional recommendations. The Task Force feels strongly that the additional recommendations are critical to the success of the policy.

In addition, the Task Force has identified three specific tasks that it would like to complete, as a collaborative effort, which is consistent with the key success factors identified in the policy itself, and is asking Council to extend the mandate of the Task Force for up to an additional six months in order to complete this work.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
ELAINE GAMBLE, MANAGING DIRECTOR CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS	JEFF FIELDING CITY MANAGER

APPENDIX "A"

Bill No.

By-law No. A.-

A by-law to implement a new Council Policy related to community engagement

WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of London wishes to implement a new Council Policy related to community engagement;

AND WHEREAS section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by by-law;

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London enacts as follows:

1. The attached Community Engagement Policy be hereby implemented.
2. This by-law comes into force on the date it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on [date].

Joe Fontana
Mayor

C. Saunders
City Clerk

First Reading – [date]
Second Reading – [date]
Third Reading – [date]