

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2013

Item 3, Report No. 8, of the Finance and Administration Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 25, 2013.

3 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Finance and Administration Committee recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Director of Internal Audit, dated June 10, 2013, be approved; and
- 2) That Communication C2, Presentation Material, entitled, "*Corporate Governance and Accountability - Survey Results*", be received.

Recommendation

The Director of Internal Audit recommends:

1. That Internal Audit be tasked with doing further research into anonymous reporting mechanisms and, in consultation with senior management, report back to Council on the better industry practices and recommended approach.

Contribution to Sustainability

Internal Audit activities and subsequent reports contribute to the sustainability of the City by providing advice and assurance that controls supporting the effective delivery of services and programs are effective. Longer term sustainability needs the support of good, efficient risk mitigation strategies. Internal Audit can provide support for that sustainability by providing independent advice and assurance.

Economic Impact

There are no direct economic impacts associated with this report.

Communications Plan

Not applicable.

Purpose

To present to the Finance and Administration Committee the Internal Audit Report on Corporate Governance and Control and to provide the results of a survey on the effectiveness of the City's corporate governance and accountability practices.

Background - Analysis and Options

Corporate governance and accountability can be best described as a system by which the City of Vaughan is directed and controlled. The system provides a structure through which objectives are set along with the supporting processes to attain the objectives and monitor performance. Good corporate governance and a well-defined accountability structure are the foundation of organizational control.

As part of the approved 2012 - 2014 Risk Based Audit Plan, Internal Audit, through the use of a survey, performed a review of the corporate governance and accountability structure at the City of Vaughan.

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Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Survey results indicate that the City is effective in communicating its mission and vision and code of conduct expectations. Staff have a good understanding of organizational policies and the impact those policies have on their jobs and the City. Opportunities for improvement include expanding initiatives to build organizational trust, improving communication mechanisms to reduce the fear of reprisal, developing a better understanding of risk management and aligning people, tools and resources to sustain City growth and expansion.

Attachment

Internal Audit Report – Corporate Governance and Accountability

Report prepared by:

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Operational and Compliance Auditor

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)