

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2013

Item 28, Report No. 14, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 23, 2013.

28 YORK REGION EMPLOYMENT SURVEY – CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Director of Economic Development, dated April 9, 2013:

Recommendation

The Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, City Clerk, and Executive Director, City Manager's Office recommends:

1. THAT the City Clerk be authorized to execute a confidentiality agreement between the City of Vaughan and the Regional Municipality of York to protect the confidentiality of proprietary commercial information collected as part of the 2012 York Region Employment Survey; and
2. THAT the City Clerk be authorized to execute a Partnership Agreement between the City of Vaughan and the Regional Municipality of York for the provision of future York Region Employment Surveys.

Contribution to Sustainability

Green Directions Vaughan embraces a *Sustainability First* principle and states that sustainability means we make decisions and take actions that ensure a healthy environment, vibrant communities and economic vitality for current and future generations. Under this definition, activities related to economic development contributes to the sustainability of the City.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact with receipt of this report.

Communications Plan

A communications plan is not applicable to this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to sign a confidentiality agreement to protect the confidentiality of proprietary commercial information supplied to the City as part of the 2012 York Region Employment Survey.

Background – Analysis and Options

Since the early 2000s, York Region's Planning Department, in collaboration with the nine area municipalities, has implemented a comprehensive, annual York Region Employment Survey (YRES). Regional staff and its surveyors are responsible for data collection, verification and data integrity. Each year between May and August, Region staff conducts door-to-door interviews.

During the collection process, businesses are advised that the data related to number of employee, i.e., full-time; part-time; full-time off-site; part-time off-site; seasonal on-site; and seasonal off-site; will be kept confidential. Consent for the data's use is given by the businesses to York Region at the time of collection on the basis that the data is used for internal purposes and only published in aggregate form.

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In order to maintain a level of trust with businesses to ensure their future participation in our surveys, the Region is requesting that municipal partners sign a confidentiality agreement before supplying the data to the City.

Without this critical data, staff will be challenged to accurately perform the detailed analysis of employment sectors, business and employment growth, historical trends and future projections required to support the Planning and Economic Development needs of the City. The City's Official Plan, Employment Sectors Study, and Economic Development Strategy are all policy documents that were informed by the York Region Employment Survey data.

A confidentiality agreement allows Staff to utilize the employment data for internal analysis only. The online Business Directory and any disseminated databases will have the number of employees suppressed. However employee ranges will still be available.

This confidentiality agreement applies to data collected in 2012. The Region of York will be updating the YRES, its data and survey methodology for 2013, and it is anticipated that a new signed partnership agreement, including any confidentiality stipulations, will be required of municipal and regional partners in the fall of 2013.

Regional Implications

A copy of the signed agreement will be forwarded to the Region of York.

Conclusion

The YRES data serves multiple purposes: planning research and policy development, employment analysis, and economic development policy and initiatives development, as well as our Business Directory. Through honouring the confidentiality commitments to our business partners, we can assure their continued participation and the ongoing strength of the database.

Attachments

None

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