

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
**CITY OF WHITE ROCK**  
CORPORATE REPORT



**DATE:** June 10, 2024

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Kari Laing, Director Human Resources

**SUBJECT:** Accessibility Committee Change of Committee Type

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT Council:

1. Establish a select committee, titled “Accessibility Committee in line with the *Accessible British Columbia Act* (2021);”
  2. Endorse Council Policy 177: Terms of Reference Accessibility Advisory Committee; and
  3. Appoint two (2) members of Council as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to the Accessibility Advisory Committee in accordance with Policy 177.
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Consistent with the *Accessible British Columbia Act* (2021) a staff committee had been established and have been meeting since October 2023 to provide guidance and advice on the development, review, and changes to the City’s accessibility strategy and to work to address accessibility challenges.

It has been found that many of the challenges being discussed at the staff committee meetings have policy and budget implications. As a result of this determination, staff recommend that it would be more effective if this subject was addressed by a Council appointed Select Committee.

**INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

In August 2023, in alignment with the *Accessible British Columbia Act*, the City established an Accessibility Advisory Committee. The Committee consists of seven (7) members of the community and three (3) co-chairs from the Senior Leadership Team. The Committee members were appointed by staff in September 2023.

The Committee is tasked with raising awareness about accessibility and inclusion, participating in group discussions, setting internal accessibility standards, identifying barriers and making recommendations on a wide range of initiatives working towards how to remove and prevent barriers to individuals. The Committee also assists and provides input into the development and implementation of an Accessibility Plan.

The Committee has met on three (3) occasions and have discussed a variety of ways that the City can improve accessibility, reviewed, and provided input into the accessibility plan, and fielded questions and concerns from the public that get submitted through the online feedback form and email. Many of the items being discussed have budget and policy implications that need Council endorsement and decision making.

Further, given the importance of the Committee, and the need to make more people aware of the barriers to accessibility in our community, Council can make the decision to establish a Select Committee of Council that will better highlight the Accessibility Advisory Committee alongside other Council Committees and allow for the public to attend meetings in-person or watch through our live stream program. This enhanced focus on the work of the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Accessibility plan has the potential to increase awareness of accessibility challenges and the importance of working to eliminate barriers among the general public.

A draft Terms of Reference for a Council Accessibility Advisory Committee is attached to and forming part of this corporate report (Attachment A).

The Terms of Reference will enable this committee to be run as the other Council committees where there will be two (2) members of Council appointed who will serve as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson who will alternate on an annual basis between the two (2) and will serve as non-voting members.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Establishing a Select Committee would make meetings open to the public and enhance transparency of the work by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

This aligns with strategic priorities as Committee work contributes to the livability of the City and enhances the ability of all residents to enjoy distinctive places and activities within our City.

### **OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES**

The following option is available for Council's consideration:

1. Maintain status quo with the Accessibility Advisory Committee remaining as a staff committee.

### **CONCLUSION**

Staff recommend that the Accessibility Advisory Committee be established as a select committee as it would more effectively and efficiently address policy and budgetary needs arising from committee recommendations, be higher profile, elicit more public engagement and awareness and better serve the community. In addition, it would be in line with the *Community Charter*.

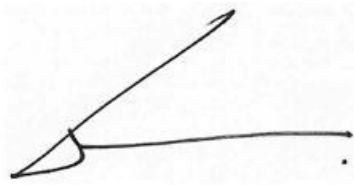
Respectfully submitted,



Kari Laing  
Director, Human Resources

**Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer**

I concur with the recommendations of this corporate report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected strokes that form a stylized, somewhat abstract shape.

Guillermo Ferrero  
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment A: Council Policy 177 Terms of Reference Accessibility Advisory Committee