

City Planning Administrative Structure

Date:	July 30, 2010
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Manager
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2010\Cluster B\DCM\ec100001

SUMMARY

This report follows-up on a request that the City Manager report to the Executive Committee on the strategy for the recruitment of a new Chief Planner, the process for the review of the Official Plan and options for a new administrative structure that would allow for the Chief Planner to report directly to City Council.

Financial Impact

This report has no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on May 11 and 12, 2010, City Council adopted Motion without Notice MM49.22 requesting the City Manager to report to the Executive Committee on the strategy for the recruitment of a new Chief Planner, the process for the review of the Official Plan and options for a new administrative structure that would allow for the Chief Planner to report directly to City Council.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-30171.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Motion without Notice states that the appointment of a new Chief Planner should be considered as part of a comprehensive review of the City's planning functions, including

its administrative practices, budget allocation and reporting relationship to City Council, and further, that a review of the planning process include a significant engagement process involving the public, neighbourhood groups and industry stakeholders.

COMMENTS

Council's Strategic Plan and Review of the Official Plan:

The new term of Council provides an opportunity for Council to review and update its Strategic Plan (2002) and priorities, including those that relate to the function and importance of city building and the role of City Planning.

The City of Toronto is required by the Planning Act to review its Official Plan in 2011, five years after the Official Plan was brought into force by the Ontario Municipal Board in 2006.

The Official Plan must be reviewed to ensure conformity with all Provincial Plans and consistency with Provincial Policy Statements. There is also a requirement, as part of this review, to undertake an assessment of the City's ability through the Official Plan to meet revisions to the growth targets in the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The targets in that plan are currently under review.

The review provides an opportunity to assess the Official Plan policies that are working and those which need to be updated or augmented. City Planning staff will be consulting with other City Divisions through the fall of 2010, and will report to Council on this matter early in 2011.

Administrative Structure:

The current administrative structure of the City, which took effect April 15, 2005, facilitates Division Heads, including the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, working directly with the community and Members of Council on matters that are important to the public.

The current administrative structure ensures that the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and all Division Heads properly represent their program area at Committees and City Council and be responsible and accountable to City Council for service delivery and results. Council resolution on all matters is required, unless delegated to Community Council in the procedural by-law.

The City Planning Division is currently undertaking a Program Review. The Deputy City Manager and City Planning management staff are currently assessing the findings and recommendations of the review to best meet Council's strategic directions in 2011 and beyond.

Chief Planner and Executive Director:

Gary Wright was appointed to the position of Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, on April 28, 2008. Mr. Wright has been with the City for over 35 years and with his vast knowledge and experience, provides leadership, strategic direction and innovation to the City of Toronto.

Mr. Wright is leading a number of very important strategic initiatives for the City of Toronto, including the harmonization of the Zoning By-law and the Lawrence-Allen Revitalization Project. He is also actively involved in many City initiatives, including waterfront revitalization, green roofs, green development standards, the Development Application Review Process, tall buildings guidelines and the Design Review Panel, to name a few.

In regard to any future recruitment process, Human Resources and senior management staff will be comprehensive in any search which will include an internal job posting, external advertising and a professional search firm with international outreach.

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SIGNATURE

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