



AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Delay in Issuing Audit Report Relating to the Financial Planning Analysis and Reporting System (FPARS)

Date:	January 28, 2013
To:	Audit Committee
From:	Auditor General
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The Auditor General's Office is governed by a detailed Policies and Procedures Manual. The contents of the Manual are based on the need for the Office to comply with generally accepted government auditing standards. The Manual is a public document and is available on the Auditor General's Web site and has been used extensively as a best practice by a number of organizations throughout North America.

Included in the Manual is the following statement:

“The staff in the Auditor General's Office will fulfill their mandate and mission in a manner that is consistent with the following values and principles:

- **Audit Reports:** *Reports are produced on a timely basis, communicate significant findings and useful information for City Councillors, management and the public.”*

The preparation and tabling of audit reports on a timely basis is a requirement of generally accepted government auditing standards. In this context the Auditor General's Office is particularly aware of the need to issue audit reports on a timely basis.

The purpose of this report is to advise Audit Committee of ongoing delays in producing a report relating to the development of the City's Financial Planning Analysis and Reporting System commonly known as FPARS.

RECOMMENDATION

The Auditor General recommends that:

1. City Council receive this report for information.

Financial Impact

The recommendation in this report has no financial impact.

COMMENTS

The Auditor General has prepared a draft audit report relating to the FPARS project. In preparing this draft report extensive discussions and meetings have taken place between the Auditor General, the City Manager and his staff, external consultants and senior staff in both the Information and Technology Division and the Financial Planning Division.

The finalization of the Auditor General's audit report on the FPARS project has been difficult and time consuming. Contradictory information has been provided to the Auditor General's Office by both divisions involved in the FPARS project, the Information and Technology Division and the Financial Planning Division, and even within the City Manager's Office itself. We are currently working through these difficulties in order to determine the accuracy of various information provided to us.

Further, the Auditor General's draft FPARS report presently includes information pertaining to four separate reports on FPARS prepared by both internal staff and external consultants. Certain senior staff have expressed concerns relating to the accuracy of each one of these reports, although there is little documentation in support of these concerns.

We have been requesting specific written responses to these reports since October 2012. These responses are still outstanding. It is our understanding, based on recent discussions with the City Manager, that responses are presently being prepared. The lack of detailed responses has and continues to delay the finalization of our report on FPARS.

CONCLUSION

We are endeavouring to complete the report on the FPARS project and will be reporting to the May 2013 Audit Committee meeting.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Jeff Griffiths, Auditor General

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