

Ensuring Value for Money for Tree Maintenance Services - Results of Analysis

Date: February 8, 2021
To: Audit Committee
From: Director, Internal Audit
Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The attachment to this report contains information pertaining to litigation or potential litigation that affects the City of Toronto.

SUMMARY

This report responds to a direction from Council arising from Item IE14.8, Ensuring Value for Money for Tree Maintenance Services, as adopted by City Council at its meeting on July 28 and 29, 2020, for the City Manager to report to the Audit Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Internal Audit recommends that:

1. City Council direct that the confidential information contained in Confidential Attachment 1 remain confidential in its entirety, as it contains information pertaining to litigation or potential litigation that affects the City of Toronto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The adoption of the recommendation in this report has no budget impacts to the City.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on July 29, 2020, City Council in considering Item IE14.8 being a report from the City Solicitor and General Manager, Parks, Forestry & Recreation entitled "Ensuring Value for Money for Tree Maintenance Services - Update and Legal Advice - Supplementary Report", adopted the following recommendation:

City Council issue the confidential instructions to staff attached to motion 1 by Councillor John Filion, such instructions to remain confidential, and City Council direct the City Manager to report to the Audit Committee on the outcome.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.IE14.8>

On May 14, 2019 City Council directed the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the City Solicitor and the Chief Purchasing Officer, to conduct a review of the tree maintenance contracts referenced in the report (April 26, 2019) from the Auditor General, in order to determine if the City can pursue legal action against the vendors to recover any monies, or to consider suspending any of the vendors from future work; the review should include, but not be limited to, a review of the vendor's work logs and associated Global Positioning System records to review the accuracy of work logs, confirm work completed and identify discrepancies.

On May 14, 2019 City Council directed the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to the Audit Committee in the fourth quarter of 2019 with a status update, and again in one year to provide a further update on results of the review of City vendor work logs and associated Global Positioning System records.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.AU2.4>

On October 25, 2019, the Audit Committee considered an information report from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation outlining the division's progress in responding to the May 2019 Council direction.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.AU4.14>

COMMENTS

At its meeting on July 29, 2020, City Council in considering Item IE14.8 being a report from the City Solicitor and General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation entitled "Ensuring Value for Money for Tree Maintenance Services - Update and Legal Advice - Supplementary Report", adopted the following recommendation:

City Council issue the confidential instructions to staff attached to motion 1 by Councillor John Filion, such instructions to remain confidential, and City Council direct the City Manager to report to the Audit Committee on the outcome.

The City Manager assigned the Director of Internal Audit to address the Council motion and the Confidential Attachment to this report responds to the above cited direction. In addition, City Council at its meeting on October 27, 28 and 30, 2020, in considering Item AU6.2 being a report from the Auditor General entitled "Audit of Winter Road

Maintenance Program - Phase One: Leveraging Technology and Improving Design and Management of Contracts to Achieve Service Level Outcomes", adopted the following recommendation:

The City Manager, in consultation with the Auditor General, to report to the Audit Committee in the first quarter of 2021 with recommendations on policies and/or processes that would provide a system of review and audit of both in-house and contracted services within each City division and that improves accountability to approved service levels and delivers on outcomes that ensure optimal value for taxpayer dollars.

Internal Audit, in consultation with the Auditor General, is developing a general framework relevant to these issues in response to the above motion. Internal Audit will continue to support the City in enhancing its contract management practices. This includes providing advice on an enterprise-wide basis in various contract management areas such as reviewing terms and conditions of contracts, assisting with the development of performance measures, reviewing controls for adequate monitoring and other best practices.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Stuart Campbell
Director, Internal Audit, Internal Audit Division

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 - Analysis Pertaining to Confidential Motion on Item IE14.8