

Supplementary Report on Existing Intergovernmental Requests

Date: April 6, 2021

To: City Council

From: City Manager

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The City Manager's report *COVID-19 Recovery and Rebuild Update (EX22.1)* provides an update on a renewed Intergovernmental Strategy for a coordinated, unified approach to engage and advocate to all levels of government to achieve the City's strategic objectives.

This supplementary report provides further information on the examination done on City Council's existing intergovernmental requests, which was one component of the work undertaken to inform a renewed approach. The examination was a point in time preliminary review to understand the requests to the federal and provincial governments, how the requests were initiated, and their alignment with strategic directions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

1. City Council receive this supplementary report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

In October 2020, the City Manager submitted the report "Towards Recovery and Building a Renewed Toronto" along with the "COVID-19: Impact and Opportunities" final

report from the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild to City Council. City Council requested that the City Manager provide progress reports through the Executive Committee on the City's streamlined, coordinated, and renewed intergovernmental strategy, including intergovernmental requests.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EX17.1>

COMMENTS

The City Manager's Office undertook a preliminary review to establish a baseline inventory of City Council's intergovernmental requests from the start of this term (December 2018) to the end of 2020 as part of the process to develop a renewed intergovernmental strategy. This was done to illustrate and understand the breadth and nature of requests to each government, how they were initiated, and alignment with strategic directions. The summary of findings from the point-in-time exercise conducted in early 2021 is provided as Attachment 1.

The 428 requests were inventoried and classified based on the following characteristics:

- Category/Theme – Alignment with the themes from the Corporate Strategic Plan.
- Origin of Request – Where each request was initiated, including staff reports, members' motions and Council directives.
- Level of Government – Specifies if the request was made to the federal government, provincial government, or both (joint).
- Decision Status – All intergovernmental requests made by Council have been communicated to other governments. This column provides a point-in time, high-level status reflecting progress to date on outcomes, based on this baseline review.

As noted in the City Manager's report, the data illustrates that:

- The City has many requests of other governments, which generally follow the City's relationships (i.e. deep relationships and many interactions with the Province), are reflective of needs identified as a result of the City's strategies, policies and programs, and mirror the nature of items considered by City Council thorough its deliberations (including COVID-19 responses).
- The City's intergovernmental requests come from many sources, and there is potential to improve coordination and alignment and provide increased intergovernmental support.
- Council directions range from general requests (such as to expand federal and provincial funding for mental health services, or an intergovernmental request to support an overall City strategy which may contain further details) to very specific requests that advance particular projects/initiatives (such as a specific level of funding required for a certain number of supportive housing units).
- Many requests are 'in progress' as they are significant and/or multi-year requests of other governments (i.e. such as funding the 10-year HousingTO Action Plan) and which are very large and complex requiring ongoing intergovernmental engagement to be achieved (often with incremental success). Requests and relationships also evolve over time responding to changes in context and situation, including changes in federal and provincial legislation, regulation, policy and/or programming.

Key to the City's intergovernmental approach is an understanding not only of requests, but of the actions that are being taken to advance them (process and outputs) and the results that are being achieved (outcomes). To this end, City staff continue to review the best mechanisms and processes to enhance current reporting on intergovernmental requests and outcomes such as through reports, briefing notes and other mechanisms.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Point-in-Time Review of Existing Intergovernmental Requests (Dec 2018-2020)