

Distribution of Councillor Reports**Report Purpose**

To provide Council an opportunity for discussion on developing a policy regarding Councillor Reports.

Recommendation

N/A

Council History

June 14, 2016 – Priorities Committee made the following motion: “That the June 14, 2016 report titled “Publication of Councillor Reports” be referred to Council for discussion on developing a policy regarding Councillor Reports on July 5, 2016.”

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: N/A

Governance: Ease of accessibility of Councillor Reports supports open and transparent governance as well as community engagement and accountability.

Social: N/A

Culture: N/A

Environment: N/A

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: N/A

Interdepartmental: All Strathcona County departments make extensive use of the external website to communicate with citizens and other stakeholders.

Summary

Currently, all Councillors include a Councillor Report on the agenda of the Priorities Committee. These reports are not mandated by the County’s bylaws or by any municipal legislation. The reports are included in the *Request for Information* section of the Priorities Committee agenda and provide highlights of each Councillor’s activities. The report itemizes the activities related to boards and committees, county business, professional development, and county functions and events on approximately a monthly basis.

While the reports are a useful summary of councillors’ activities, they do not reflect the entire scope of councillors’ roles. Since the Priorities Committee agendas are made public, citizens have the opportunity to review these reports; however, citizens may not intuitively look for this information on the Priorities Committee agendas.

Some members of Council expressed interest in having a discussion on how best to share the Councillor Reports with the public. Three possible options are provided below for discussion and consideration:

Option 1: Status Quo – Continue to publish Councillor Reports as part of the Priorities Committee agenda

Pros

- Reports are made public through the Priorities Committee agendas
- Reports are provided on a consistent schedule

Cons

- Administration does not always have the most up to date information when preparing the reports which means that reports may have missing items or changes that need to be addressed by the Councillor at the meeting
- Citizens may not realize that these reports are available in the Priorities Committee agendas
- Since the reports coincide with Priorities Committee schedule, the reports vary in their date range
- Councillor Reports are part of the Reports for Information section on the agenda which are typically not presented or spoken to during the meeting

Option 2: Website Publication – publish Councillor Reports on the “Mayor and Councillors” webpage of the Strathcona County website

Pros

- Reports are made public on the website
- Reports can address a fixed amount of time and be back-dated in order to ensure no need for corrections (e.g. January’s activities would be posted in the first week of February and would cover January 1 to January 30)
- Citizens are more likely to consult the website to learn more about Councillors’ roles and duties
- A header or text box could be added to the website to provide more context to citizens regarding the scope of the report

Cons

- Any reporting on Councillor activities would no longer be included in Priorities Committee meetings

Option 3: Website publication as noted in option 2 and publish reports on Priorities Committee agenda but have a one month time lag (i.e. the January reports would be included in the February Priorities Committee agenda).

Pros

- Same pros noted for Option 2

Cons

- Less efficient process