

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Establish - Environment and Sustainability Experts Panel

Date Prepared: September 26, 2019

Report To: Committee of the Whole

Councillor and Role: Mayor Danny Breen – Governance & Strategic Priorities

Ward: N/A

Decision/Direction Required:

Seeking approval to dissolve the current Environmental Advisory Committee and establish an Environment and Sustainability Experts Panel. ***This Decision Note has been updated to reflect the revision outlined at the September 18th Committee of the Whole meeting.***

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

The Environmental Advisory Committee was re-established in February of 2016 as a result of the City's advisory committee review. Since then, the Committee has been an active tool of engagement and has provided invaluable direction to Council on environmental issues that relate to City policies, programs and services.

Now more than ever, the City recognizes the importance of enhancing its focus on sustainability to enable economic growth, prosperity and competitiveness while protecting its natural resources and playing its part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As a first step toward this initiative, the City established the position of Sustainability Coordinator which will focus on the planning and implementation of municipal sustainability priorities as well as supporting the development and implementation of the Sustainability Plan.

Given Council's new direction and in consultation with the Sustainability Coordinator, it was determined that an experts panel would better serve the City moving forward. The panel will provide expertise, opinion and perspective about environmental and sustainability matters, including the City of St. John's energy intensity, greenhouse gas emissions, resilience, and environment.

Attached is a draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Environment and Sustainability Experts Panel which outlines its purpose.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: N/A

ST. JOHN'S

2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:
 - Council
 - Residents of the City
 - Volunteers – Environmental Advisory Committee
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: N/A
4. Legal or Policy Implications: N/A
5. Privacy Implications: N/A
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:
 - Advertise for members – Environment and Sustainability Experts Panel
7. Human Resource Implications: N/A
8. Procurement Implications: N/A
9. Information Technology Implications: N/A
10. Other Implications: N/A

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Council approve the dissolution of the current Environmental Advisory Committee and establish an Environment and Sustainability Experts Panel and further that the provision of a Council liaison be included in the Terms of Reference.

Prepared and Approved by: Elaine Henley, City Clerk

Attachments: Environment and Sustainability – Terms of Reference