

REPORT

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: February 27, 2023

From: Lisa Spitale
Chief Administrative Officer
File:

Item #: 2023-134

Subject: **Considerations Related to a Review of the Existing Council Code of Conduct**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council direct the Solicitor to begin the statutory process of considering a review of the existing Council Code of Conduct and prepare a new Code of Conduct through workshops with City Council.

Purpose

To provide Council with information on the new statutory requirements to consider a review of its Code of Conduct. A new Council Code of Conduct will be based on best practices.

BACKGROUND

Section 113.1 of the Community Charter now requires all local governments to consider whether to establish a code of conduct or revise an existing one within six months of the first regular meeting after a general local election. In the City's case, Council must complete its review by the first week of May 2023. Municipalities will have to publicly disclose, on request, a statement respecting their reasons for not establishing a code of conduct or revising an existing one.

ANALYSIS

A working group on responsible Council codes of conduct has been created and is a joint initiative of the Union of BC Municipalities, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Local Government Management Association.

This working group has developed a model code of conduct that sets out shared principles and standards of conduct to help local government councils or boards get started on developing their own code of conduct. The document is also useful for councils or boards who wish to review or refresh an existing code of conduct.

The working group has developed a guide: *Forging the Path to Responsible Conduct in Your Local Government*, about fostering responsible conduct, maintaining good governance, resolving conduct issues informally, and the essentials of code of conduct enforcement. This report and revised Code draws on the best practices for code reform from the working group's recommendations. It also draws on the City of Vancouver's newly enacted 2021 Code of Conduct Bylaw that adopted recommendations from the working group.

OPTIONS

The options presented are:

1. Council direct the Solicitor to begin the statutory process of considering a review of the existing Council Code of Conduct and prepare a new Code of Conduct through workshops with City Council; or
2. Provide staff with alternative direction.

Staff recommend Option 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Existing Council Code of Conduct

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:
Craig MacFarlane, Manager Legal Services (City Solicitor)

This report was approved by:
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer