

Audit Committee Report

DATE: Monday, September 19, 2022

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT

FROM:

Kevin Shapiro, Director of Internal Audit

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To communicate the findings from the Accessibility Audit.

Report Highlights

- As a reflection the City's commitment to advancing accessibility, Council approved the City's 2019 – 2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP), which identifies how the City will create a barrier-free community with universal access to its programs, services and facilities.
- The City is currently in the process of developing a new five year Accessibility Plan for the period of 2023 - 2027.
- The audit identified opportunities in the 2019 - 2022 MYAP cycle to improve management oversight and ensure risks related to the administration of the City's accessibility initiatives are efficiently and effectively mitigated.
- Management has developed action plans which will mitigate the identified risks and address the recommendations outlined in the report.
- This audit was conducted in conformance with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*.
- Internal Audit will follow up with management and report on the status of management action plans at a future committee meeting.

Recommendations

1. That the Internal Audit Report – Accessibility Audit be received.

Background

The objective of the audit is to evaluate the current state of the City's MYAP while assessing risks and identifying opportunities to help further the objectives of the creation of the new multi-year plan.

The audit approach included a review of the strategic goals, objectives and oversight of the accessibility initiatives, review of relevant programs, legislation, policies and procedures, use of technology, and interviews with external and internal stakeholders.

The scope of the audit covered activities for the current 2019 – 2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and the annual status reports.

This audit was conducted in conformance with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*.

Previous Reports/Authority

Not applicable.

Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. The City believes in integration and fair access for residents, visitors and employees with visible or non-visible disabilities. The City promises to meet the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and supporting the goals of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

As a reflection of this commitment to advancing accessibility, Council approved the City's 2019 – 2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, which identifies how the City will create a barrier-free community with universal access to its programs, services and facilities.

Since January 2021, the City's Diversity and Inclusion Officer provides direction to the Diversity and Accessibility Coordinator who oversees the implementation of the MYAP, and each portfolio and department is responsible for meeting compliance with AODA and achieving initiatives outlined in the MYAP. The City is currently in the process of developing a new five year Accessibility Plan for the period of 2023 – 2027.

Financial Impact

There are no direct economic impacts associated with this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not applicable.

Conclusion

The audit identified opportunities in the 2019 – 2022 MYAP cycle to improve management oversight and ensure risks related to the administration of the City's accessibility initiatives are efficiently and effectively mitigated.

The following opportunities were identified:

- Strengthen overall governance and oversight of the accessibility initiatives.
- Improve the MYAP development and implementation process.
- Enhance accessibility training to promote accessibility knowledge and awareness.
- Incorporate in the MYAP regular independent accessibility assessments and certification.

For more information, please contact: Kevin Shapiro, Director of Internal Audit, ext. 8293.

Attachments

1. Internal Audit Report – Accessibility Audit
2. Presentation Materials

Prepared by

Kevin Shapiro, Director of Internal Audit, ext. 8293

Approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Shapiro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Shapiro, Director of Internal Audit