

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 28, 2007**

### **CREATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ADOPTION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE RATIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Manager, in consultation with the Senior Management Team, recommends:

1. That the following recommendations of the Environmental Task Force, from its meeting on May 14, 2007, be approved:
  - 1) That the "Environment Committee" be established as a Special Purpose Committee of Council and that the Procedural By-law be amended accordingly;
  - 2) That staff review the Terms of Reference and report back addressing Members of Council's comments;
  - 3) That this report be forwarded to Committee of the Whole and Council for ratification;
  - 4) That upon ratification by Council, the Environmental Task Force will cease operations and be replaced by the Environment Committee; and
  - 5) That the report of the City Manager dated May 14, 2007, be received.
2. That the revised Terms of Reference for the operation of the Environment Committee, forming Attachment No. 2, be approved; and
3. That appropriate notification be provided in accordance with By-law No. 394-2002 with respect to the required amendment to the Procedural By-law.

#### **Economic Impact**

There will be no economic impact resulting from the adoption of this report.

#### **Communications Plan**

Notice of the creation of the Environment Committee will be posted on the City's website.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide for the ratification of the Environmental Task Force's recommendation of May 14, 2007, which would have the following effects:

- Establishing the Environment Committee as a Special Purpose Committee of Council;
- Approving Terms of Reference for the operation of the Environment Committee, as set out in Attachment No. 2; and
- That upon ratification, the Environmental Task Force will cease operations and be replaced by the Environment Committee.

## **Background – Analysis and Options**

At the May 14, 2007 the Environmental Task Force meeting, the Task Force considered a report entitled "Creation of the Environment Committee, Adoption of Terms of Reference". It forms Attachment No. 1 to this report. On consideration of the report, the Task Force adopted the recommendation set out above. In the discussion a number changes were suggested to the draft Terms of Reference, which resulted in Recommendation 2). In response the draft Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee was revised and circulated for review. The responses were taken into account in drafting the amended version of the Terms of Reference, which forms Attachment No. 2 to this report. It is recommended that this version of the Terms of Reference be approved.

## **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the provisions of Vaughan Vision 2007 in respect of Section 4, "Planning and Managing Growth".

## **Regional Implications**

There are no Regional implications resulting from the adoption of this report. Ultimately the City and the Region will need to coordinate their respective sustainability/environmental plans and initiatives.

## **Conclusion**

As set out in Attachment No. 1, the creation of the Environment Committee will be an important step forward for the City in its quest to become a more sustainable community. Approval of this report by Council will ratify the Environmental Task Force's recommendations of May 14, 2007. This will serve to: Create the Environment Committee as a Special Purpose Committee of Council; approve Terms of Reference for the Committee's operations (as revised), which form Attachment No. 2 to this report; and provide for the replacement of the Environmental Task Force with the Environment Committee. Therefore, the recommendation should be adopted.

## **Attachments**

1. Environmental Task Force Report: Item 4.1, "Creation of the Environment Committee, Adoption of Terms of Reference", May 14, 2007;
2. Revised Terms of Reference – Environment Committee

## **Report Prepared by:**

Roy McQuillin, Manager of Corporate Policy, ext. 8211

Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeAngelis  
City Manager

4.1.1

ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE MEETING – MAY 14, 2007

CREATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
ADOPTION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Recommendation

The City Manager, in consultation with the Senior Management Team, recommends that:

1. The "Environment Committee" be established as a Special Purpose Committee of Council and that the Procedural By-law be amended accordingly;
2. The Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee, as set out in this report, be approved to govern its mandate, goals, objectives, membership and operations;
3. This report be forwarded to Committee of the Whole and Council for ratification; and
4. Upon ratification by Council, the Environmental Task Force will cease operations and be replaced by the Environment Committee;

Economic Impact

There will be no economic impact resulting from the adoption of this report.

Communications Plan

There is no communications plan associated with this specific report. On February 12, 2007 Council directed Staff to report back with a public and stakeholder consultation strategy for the Vaughan Consolidated Growth Management Strategy – 2031. The Environmental Master Plan is a main component of the Growth Management Strategy and will be included in the public and stakeholder consultation plan. As part of that plan, the role of the Environment Committee will need to be explained, both in the preparation of the EMP and in its other duties. It would be appropriate to address the specific needs of the Environment Committee as part of the development of the overall communications strategy.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend the adoption of Terms of Reference for the "Environment Committee" as a Special Purpose Committee of Council. The Procedural By-law will need to be amended accordingly. The approved Terms of Reference will govern its mandate, membership and operations. It is further recommended that this report be forwarded to Committee of the Whole and Council for ratification and upon ratification, that the Environmental Task Force be replaced by the Environment Committee.

Background – Analysis and Options

a) Previous Council Action

On February 12, 2007 Council approved a work plan and timeline for the preparation of the Vaughan Consolidated Growth Management Strategy and directed staff to proceed with its development. The preparation of an Environmental Master Plan is an integral part of the Growth Management Strategy. Under the approved organizational structure,

## 4.1.2

the Senior Management Team reports to Council through the Environmental Task Force on matters related to the Environmental Master Plan.

On February 19, 2007 the Environmental Task Force considered a staff report entitled, "Environmental Task Force Proposed Amendment to Mandate and Name". It recommended changes to the Task Force's mandate and name to more closely reflect its new responsibilities pertaining to the preparation and implementation of the Environmental Master Plan.

The Task Force approved the following resolution:

1. That the report entitled, "Environmental Task Force Proposed Amendment to Mandate and Name", dated February 19, 2007, be brought back to the next Environmental Task Force meeting with the following additional recommendations:
  - a) That the Environmental Task Force's name be changed to the Environment Committee" as a Standing Committee of Council;
  - b) That the membership of the committee be increased to 5 Members of Council including the Mayor;
  - c) That the mandate be broadened to include all issues and activities pertaining to the environment.

This recommendation was ratified by Committee of the Whole at its meeting of March 5, 2007. In addition, Committee of the Whole recommended that Councillor Tony Carella be appointed as the fifth member of the Environment Committee. The Committee of the Whole actions were ratified by Council on March 19, 2007.

In order to give effect to this direction a Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee has been prepared for the Task Force's consideration. Upon the Task Force's satisfaction with its content, it will be forwarded to Committee of the Whole and Council for ratification in accordance with the recommendation set out above.

b) The Draft Terms of Reference

The intent of the Terms of Reference is to broaden the Committee's role as an advocate for the environment and sustainability at the municipal level. This will allow it to consider the full range of issues facing municipalities and their constituents and to explore, identify and support the adoption of more sustainable practices.

Of critical importance will be bringing the preparation and implementation of the Environmental Master Plan under its mandate. The EMP will provide the City with the road map on how to move to a more sustainable future. It will give structure and definition to the Committee's mandate by way of its policies and their resulting implementation. The Terms of Reference also give the Environment Committee the freedom to explore innovative policies and plans and to work with agencies and organizations that share programs or objectives, consistent with the Environmental Task Force's original mandate.

The draft Terms of Reference are set out below. It defines the Committee's mission, its mandate and the goals and objectives. From an operational perspective the Terms of Reference establish the Committee's membership, the sources of technical and administrative support, procedural rules, the process for setting meetings and the term of service.

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE  
THE CITY OF VAUGHAN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**The Mission**

To act as an agent of change and innovation by promoting the development and implementation of municipally based policies, plans and initiatives that are founded on the principles of sustainability.

**The Mandate**

1. To provide assistance and advice to Council in the pursuit of the City of Vaughan's objective of becoming a more sustainable community through continuous improvement to the City's operational and regulatory practices;
2. To provide oversight in the development, implementation, monitoring and on-going renewal of the City's Environmental Master Plan as part of the City's Consolidated Growth Management Strategy – 2031;
3. To investigate and report on any other issues, policies, plans or initiatives relating to the environment and/or sustainability measures, as necessary; and
4. To work with external parties to further the cause of sustainability, consistent with the City's objectives.

**The Goals**

To support and provide oversight as required in the development and implementation of municipal policies, plans and investments based on the principles of sustainability;

To promote public awareness of the importance of sustainability as it affects our environment, our communities, our health and social relations and the economy;

To act as environmental ambassadors and advisors thereby encouraging residents, industry and other organizations to incorporate environmental initiatives and sound environmental practices into their daily activities and operations;

To work in cooperation with all levels of government, education, industry and external agencies or parties and the community at large by participating in the development of plans and programs designed to advance the cause of sustainability, consistent with City objectives;

To consider local, regional, national and international environmental challenges and issues, such as climate change, in the policy development process; and

To be a point of contact for the public and private sectors on potential environmental initiatives that may be of interest to the City.

**The Objective**

To optimize the quality of the living and working experience for the residents and businesses of the City of Vaughan by ensuring the development of healthy communities, continuing progress toward sustainable natural and built environments and the advancement of economic vitality through the application of the principles of sustainability.

# 4.1.4

## The Membership

The Committee shall be composed of:

- Four Members of Council, appointed by Council; and
- The Mayor (*ex officio*)

## Technical Support

Technical support to the Committee will be provided by the required City Departments and related entities, including but not limited to:

- The City Manager and the Senior Management Team and/or assigned representatives from:
  - Corporate Policy;
  - Economic/Technology Development;
  - Corporate Communications;
  - Building & Facilities;
  - Fleet;
  - Legal Services;
  - Public Works;
  - Engineering;
  - Parks Operations & Forestry;
  - Parks Development;
  - Policy Planning & Urban Design;
  - Community Planning;
  - Building Standards.
- Vaughan Public Libraries ;
- PowerStream Inc.

## Administrative Support

Administrative support to the Environment Committee will be provided jointly by the City Manager's Office and the Office of the Commissioner of Economic/Technology Development and Communications. Secretariat Services will be provided by the Clerk's Department. The operations of the Environment Committee will be governed by the City's Procedural By-law

## Meetings

A schedule of meetings shall be adopted by the Committee at the first meeting of every calendar year. The Committee will meet, at minimum, on a quarterly basis. The meeting dates may be altered, added to or deleted at the discretion of the Chair.

## Term

The Environment Committee will be appointed by Council for a four-year term, concurrent with Council's term of office.

### Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the provisions of Vaughan Vision 2007 in respect of Section 4, "Planning and Managing Growth", which includes Paragraph 4.4 "Ensure City wide protection of the Environment" and Paragraph 4.6 "Preserve and Enhance the Natural and built heritage environments."

### Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications resulting from the adoption of this report. The Region is currently preparing the "York Region Sustainability Strategy". A preliminary draft was issued in March 2007. Public consultation is now underway. Ultimately, the City and the Region will need to coordinate their respective plans and initiatives to ensure the best possible outcome for our communities, the environment and the economy. This can be achieved during the preparation of the respective growth management and sustainability plans.

### Conclusion

The creation of the Environment Committee represents an important symbolic and practical step for the City of Vaughan. Symbolically, it signals the City's commitment to addressing one of the most pressing issues of the day – the threat to our environment from human activities and our need as a society to confront this threat by acting in a more responsible way. Municipalities are well-positioned to play a leadership role in this effort by incorporating the principles of sustainability into their day-to-day operational and regulatory practices.

Practically, the Terms of Reference put in place an administrative framework for focusing on issues associated with the environment and sustainability. The Environmental Committee will provide oversight in the development of the City of Vaughan's Environmental Master Plan, which will be one of the core elements of the City's Consolidated Growth Management Strategy – 2031. The EMP will help shape the future of the City and under the Terms of Reference the Committee will be involved in policy formulation process, continuing through implementation, monitoring and ultimately its renewal. The Terms of Reference also provide the Committee with the opportunity to explore a wide range of environmental issues, consistent with the original mandate of the Environmental Task Force, which it is replacing.

It is recommended that the Environmental Task Force approve the Terms of Reference set out above and that the recommendations be forwarded to Committee of the Whole and Council for ratification. Upon ratification the Environment Committee would replace the existing Environmental Task Force, with a more expansive Terms of Reference.

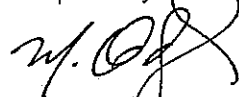
### Attachments

N/A

### Report Prepared by:

Roy McQuillin, Manager of Corporate Policy

Respectfully submitted,



Michael DeAngelis  
City Manager

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
THE CITY OF VAUGHAN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**The Vision**

To continually improve the quality of life and the working environment for the residents and businesses of the City of Vaughan by integrating the principles of sustainability and sound environmental practice into all municipal functions and operations.

**The Mission**

To lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of measures that will result in a sustainable city defined by strong communities, economic vitality and a healthy natural environment.

**The Mandate**

1. To provide assistance and advice to Council in the pursuit of the City of Vaughan's objective of becoming a more sustainable community;
2. To provide oversight in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and on-going renewal of the City's Environmental Master Plan as part of the City's Consolidated Growth Management Strategy – 2031;
3. To investigate and report on issues, policies, plans or initiatives relating to sustainability or the environment and where necessary, oversee the development and implementation of such policies, plans or initiatives; and
4. To work with external parties to further the cause of sustainability, consistent with the City's goals and objectives.

**The Goals**

To promote continuing improvements to Vaughan's operational and regulatory policies and practices and to support comprehensive corporate responses to environmental issues;

To coordinate and facilitate environmental initiatives in the City and where appropriate make recommendations to Council on environmental priorities and the allocation of municipal resources, including funding;

To promote public awareness of the importance of sustainability as it affects our natural and built environments, our communities, our health and social relations and the economy;

To act as environmental ambassadors and advisors thereby encouraging residents, industry and other organizations to incorporate sound environmental practices into their daily activities and operations;

To work in cooperation with all levels of government, education, industry and external agencies or parties and the community at large by participating in the development of plans and programs designed to advance the cause of sustainability, consistent with City objectives;

To consider local, regional, national and international environmental challenges and issues, such as climate change, in the policy development process; and



To be a point of contact for the public and private sectors on potential environmental initiatives that may be of interest to the City.

### **The Membership**

The Committee shall be composed of:

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### **Technical Support**

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  - Fleet;
  - Legal Services;
  - Public Works;
  - Engineering;
  - Parks Operations & Forestry;
  - Parks Development;
  - Policy Planning;
  - Development Planning;
  - Building Standards.
- Vaughan Public Libraries ;
- PowerStream Inc.

### **Administrative Support**

Administrative support to the Environment Committee will be provided jointly by the City Manager's Office and the Office of the Commissioner of Economic/Technology Development and Communications. Secretariat Services will be provided by the Clerk's Department. The operation of the Environment Committee will be governed by the City's Procedural By-law

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