

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 20, 2008

TECHNOLOGY IN THE NEW CITY HALL

Recommendation

The Chief Information Officer (CIO), in consultation with the Deputy City Manager / Commissioner of Finance and Corporate Services, Commissioner of Community Services, and the Director of Information Technology and Telecommunications, recommends:

1. That this report be received for information.

Economic Impact

As part of the overall City Hall construction budget, approximately \$3 million has been allocated for technology infrastructure in the new building. More significant portion of the allocated budget is for installation of basic technology infrastructure, such as cabling and internal data/voice network equipment. A portion of the allocated budget will be used for implementation of new end-user technologies, which are detailed in the body of this report.

Technology planned for the City Hall is being scoped within the allocated funding and in close coordination with existing technology assets replacement programs. Replacement of technologies that are currently in use and are nearing the end of their life cycle will be coordinated with the new City Hall move-in date. To the maximum extent possible, existing technologies will be migrated into the new City Hall and integrated with the new technologies being planned.

Communications Plan

A communications plan for this item is not required.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the type of technologies being planned for deployment in the new City Hall.

Background - Analysis and Options

On September 24, 2007, Council requested that staff provide a report on any opportunities for use of technologies in the new City Hall.

This report is provided in response to Council request.

Vision and Strategy for Technology in the New City Hall

The technology planned for the new City Hall will complement the new building's architectural and functional design, as well as establish a foundation for deployment of emerging technologies in the future. In keeping with the theme of accessibility and transparency, technology will be used to enable public access to information and the process of Council.

For example, "hot spots" will be established in all public areas of the building and surrounding outdoors area to enable access to the Internet and City of Vaughan on-line information resources. Where possible, information monitors located in strategic areas of the building will be used to

provide useful information to the public about current events, initiatives and general building information, as well as live video casting of Council meetings. The technical infrastructure will also be able to facilitate interactive kiosks to enable “self-serve” interaction with the public when such services become available.

The most significant use of technology will be in the new Council chambers and committee rooms. Leading edge audio/visual systems are currently being researched and planned for implementation. Technologies that are being researched include automated speaker queuing, electronic voting, electronic document management (agenda presentment), video/audio recording and web casting, and multimedia presentation capabilities. It is the goal to make the City of Vaughan council chambers and committee rooms as functionally efficient as possible with the use of leading technologies.

Technology for Council chambers and committee rooms is being researched and specified in close coordination with staff from the Clerks department and Buildings and Facilities.

Functional Requirements for Technology in the New City Hall

In identifying opportunities for deploying technology in the new City Hall, the building's functional requirements were taken into close consideration. In consultation with the building architects and staff from the Buildings and Facilities department, space functions were defined for all areas of the building and general space utilization objectives were established. Based on the defined space functions and general space utilization objectives, appropriate technology opportunities were identified and incorporated in the building design. In addition to meeting functional and general space usage requirements, the identified technology opportunities also had to be realistic, affordable, scalable and sustainable.

The following is a summary of planned technologies at the new Civic Centre by space function:

Outdoors Public Area

Purpose/Function:

Purpose of this space is for large informal public gatherings, outdoor concerts, presentation, etc.

Technologies:

- Stage, podium with microphone, speaker system, large scale video projection system;
- Security video surveillance
- “Hot-spot” access points

Main Lobby (Main Floor)

Purpose/Function:

Multipurpose area for public gathering, greeting and reception area, information area, security control area, waiting area, exhibit area, etc.

Technologies:

- Large video monitors for display of information (announcements, current/local events, council meeting schedules, in-house video feeds, etc.)
- Information Kiosks for access to the building directory and e-Services
- Security video surveillance
- Security access control
- "Hot-spot" access points

Council Chambers

Purpose/Function:

Council sessions, committee meetings, regulatory board meetings, recitals, presentations, etc.

Technologies:

- Microphone (speaker management system) with multi-point audio system
- Multiple monitor/screen projection system
- Built-in video/audio recording capabilities
- Outbound video/audio feed for media broadcasting, webcasting, in-house video monitoring
- Electronic voting system
- Individual electronic information system (members of council and senior management)
- Press gallery with telephone, cable, internet, external media feeds
- Speaker's podium with computer hookup and document imaging (for presentations)
- Master controls for Clerk's desk
- "Hot spot" access point

Committee Rooms / Public Hearing Rooms

Purpose/Function:

Committee meetings, public hearings, regulatory board meetings, presentations, etc.

Technologies:

- Microphone (speaker management system) with multi-point audio system
- Video projection system
- Built-in video/audio recording capabilities
- Speaker's computer hookup (for presentations)
- Audio conferencing units (Polycom's)
- Video conferencing (under consideration)
- "Hot spot" access point

Multimedia Room (Below Council Chambers)

Purpose/Function:

Designed as a small theatre for presentations, small recitals, press conferences, spillover from Council Chambers, etc.

Technologies:

- Stage, podium with microphone, speaker system, video projection system
- Built-in video/audio recording capabilities
- Inbound video/audio feed from Council Chambers
- Outbound video/audio feed for media broadcasting, webcasting, in-house video monitoring
- "Hot spot" access point

Staff Office Areas

Purpose/Function:

General staff office areas used for administrative functions, etc.

Technologies:

- Integrated data and voice (VoIP) wiring infrastructure
- Modular electrical and VoIP infrastructure, integrated into office furniture
- Highly available wireless access (WiFi) for private and public use
- High bandwidth VoIP service to work areas
- Multiple fail points for electrical and VoIP service to work areas
- Centralized printing/facsimile/copying facilities in large work areas
- Security video surveillance
- Security access control

Boardrooms and Meeting Rooms

Purpose/Function:

Meetings, presentations, training, etc.

Technologies:

- Integrated data and voice (VoIP) wiring infrastructure
- Video/audio projection systems or Smartboard technology (pre-wired)
- Audio conferencing units (Polycom's)

Relationship to Vaughan Vision

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Specifically, the recommendations in this report support the following Vaughan Vision Strategic Initiatives:

- A1 – Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery
- C3 – Maintain Assets & Infrastructure Integrity
- C4 – Ensure Financial Sustainability

Regional Implications

None

Conclusion

As part of the new City Hall construction, a number of new technologies are being planned for deployment to improve efficiency, communications and overall experience in the new City Hall. The new technologies being planned will effectively support the needs and function of specific areas of the new City Hall.

Current technologies being used in the existing building will be migrated and integrated with the new technologies in the new City Hall.

The new technologies planned for deployment are part of the overall new City Hall construction budget and are being considered with value, scalability and sustainability in mind.

Attachments

None

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