Clause 12 in Report No. 17 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on November 17, 2016.

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2016 Open Data Program Update

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated October 28, 2016 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Report dated October 28, 2016 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services now follows:

1.   Recommendation

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2.   Purpose

This report provides a summary of progress on York Region's Open Data program and outlines the plan to move forward. Attachment 1 provides an update on data released to date and identified for release through to 2018.

3.   Background and Previous Council Direction

Open Data releases government data for public use

Open data is the release of machine-readable government data for download and use by the public without restriction. Making government data available enables the public sector, private sector businesses and non-government organizations to add value to data, rather than duplicating it, thereby reducing costs.

2016 Open Data Program Update

Open data increases transparency, promotes understanding of government and fosters greater trust by proactively making data broadly available to everyone. It helps to raise the profile of regional government as a self-serve trusted source of data.

Council approved York Region's Open Data program in 2013

Council approved an Open Data program for York Region and York Region's Open Data principles on September 26, 2013, after the one-year pilot started in 2012. It has since been adopted as a strategic priority in the 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan with the performance measure to increase the number of data sets available online.

156 datasets have been released to the public since 2012

In York Region, open data can be accessed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week from www.york.ca/opendata. This site provides program information, the open data license agreement and a link to the catalogue of published open data.

There are now 156 datasets released including core mapping datasets (roads, addresses and parcels). Also available are public health inspection results, transit routes and schedules, population estimates and the Region's Operating Budget. Attachment 1 provides a complete list of the data currently released and data identified for release through to 2018.

A five year plan identifies each department's datasets for release

Datasets to be released over a 5 year period from 2014-2018 are identified in the York Region Open Data release plan. The plan is updated annually through consultations with each department. The focus is to release datasets of known or demonstrated value with immediate priority given to those already available to the public. Currently in its 3rd year, the Open Data release plan (Attachment 1) identifies data that have been released and will be updated on annual basis.

A publication process for release is in place to protect privacy

Datasets to be published on the Open Data site are reviewed for privacy, confidentiality and intellectual property restrictions. A team of representatives from all Regional departments reviews each candidate dataset to determine if the value of releasing the data warrants the publication effort, recommends communications required and facilitates the review process within each department. Data descriptions are prepared and published with the data, to help users understand the data being released thereby reducing the likelihood of misinterpretation.

4.   Analysis and Implications

Number of downloads from York Region's Open Data site is increasing

Data has been downloaded nearly 18,000 times from York Region's Open Data site since 2012. The most downloaded datasets are land parcels, roads, address points and building footprint mapping data. The York Region business directory and population statistics are the most often downloaded non-mapping data.

Table 1 shows the number of downloads from the Region's Open Data site by year. Annual downloads are increasing, indicating a growing use and popularity of the Open Data program. Current statistics show this trend is on track to continue for the remainder of 2016.

Table 1
Number of Downloads from Open Data Site 2012 – Aug 31 / 2016

Year	Downloads
Mid-October - end 2012	784
2013	3325
2014	4413
2015	5625
2016 (mid-year)	3829
	~18000

2016 Go Open event held in York Region, with Local and Regional municipal staff participating on organizing committee

Go Open 2016 is an annual province-wide community-driven event which brings together government, non-profits, businesses and academics to build awareness of open data in Ontario. In May of 2016, York Region participated with ventureLAB, Seneca College, York University, the City of Markham, the Town of Newmarket, the Province of Ontario and local libraries in organizing the 4th annual event in York Region. The event provided opportunity to build engagement with the public, focus on the economic benefits and innovative uses of open data and foster partnerships between the Region's technology and business communities. Over two days, 180 attendees participated in presentations, break-out sessions, a hackathon, and a panel discussion co-presented by York Region.

York Region provides data of value to the public by collaborating with popular online services

Through the Open Data program, opportunities are sought to enhance popular online services with the Region's data so that more people use it. In 2016, York Region collaborated with Yelp to incorporate food premise inspection results into Yelp's local business search tool that publishes crowd-sourced reviews. Including public health inspection results in Yelp and other popular review sites provides the opportunity to extend the public reach of inspection results to Yelp's larger audience, and improve the compliance of food establishments with safe food-handling practices.

Datasets released through open data in response to public requests

The Open Data program strives to release data of value to the public. Datasets frequently requested or suggested by the user community help identify those of greatest value. In response to the high volume of public requests, mapping data related to the 17 maps and 3 figures in the Regional Official Plan and a listing of sewer use bylaw surcharge holders were made available in 2016. This has allowed the Region to satisfy requests from the public and eliminate staff effort associated with repeatedly distributing datasets on individual requests.

Integrated data access was piloted with the Town of Newmarket to provide businesses and residents one window access

During consultation workshops held in 2013, users asked that data be made available from both the Region and local municipalities, preferably through a single access point. Integration between the Town of Newmarket and York Region's Open Data sites has been piloted. Data published in the Town of Newmarket's Open Data catalogue can be shown and accessed from York Region's catalogue and vice versa. This illustrates significant potential for data access, providing users with the one window approach to access data they desire. The Region will partner with local municipalities and conservation authorities to integrate their sites as they move forward with their Open Data programs.

The focus in 2017 will be on public outreach to increase awareness and engagement

In 2017, staff will increase awareness and use of the Region's Open Data by focusing on communications and public outreach opportunities. Social media will be used to announce new data releases, coming events and open data news, to improve program visibility to a broad audience. Activities such as hosting and

contributing to Open Data events will advance engagement with the public, academic and business communities and help foster an Open Data community within York Region. A congestion themed public event is planned for 2017, partnering with Transportation Services.

5.   Financial Implications

The Open Data program is funded under the Data, Analytics and Visualization Services Branch in the approved 2016 Corporate Services operating budget.

6.   Local Municipal Impact

York Region staff support local municipalities interested in advancing their Open Data programs by sharing best practices and lessons learned. For example, staff worked closely with the Town of Newmarket on implementation of their open data site and to pilot integrated data access. Partnerships with the local municipalities on opportunities such as site integration and public events will be instrumental in the successful evolution of Open Data and growth of an Open Data community in York Region.

7.   Conclusion

Council approved an Open Data program for York Region on September 26, 2013. The Open Data program makes York Region's data easily available to the public, other government agencies and the private sector. It helps raise the profile of regional government as a trusted self-serve source of data. The nearly 18,000 downloads since the Open Data site was launched indicates the community finds the self-serve approach to accessing the Region's data useful. Additional datasets will continue to be reviewed and released to popular sites and applications used by the public.

For more information on this report, please contact John Houweling, Director, Data, Analytics and Visualization Services at ext. 71529 or Laura Thomas, GIS Analyst at ext. 71554.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

2016 Open Data Program Update

October 28, 2016

Attachment (1)

7100174

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

Datasets Released to Date

Business and Economy	York Region Business Directory (multiple years)
	York Region Capital Plan
	York Region Operating Budget
	York Region Operating Revenue
Environment	2009 Colour Shaded Relief
	2011 Contours - 1 meter and 5 meter
	Benchmarks, Vertical Control
	Broader Public Sector Energy Reporting 397-11 (multiple years)
	Clean Water Act Aquifer Vulnerability Scores
	Regional Forest Boundary
	Regionally Owned Street Trees
	Sewer Bylaw Surcharge Agreement Holders
	Wellhead Protection Areas
Government	2001, 2006 and 2011 Census Statistic Tables (multiple)
	Address Points
	Building Footprints
	Municipal Boundary
	Parcels (property lines)
	Population and Household Estimate by Local Municipality
	Regional Official Plan – Population & Employment Forecasts
	Solid Waste Sites
	Web Mapping Services Application Programming Interface
	York Region Official Plan Mapping Data (multiple)
	York Region Open Data Release Listing
Health and Public Safety	Annual Drinking Water Systems Data Report
	Beach Water Testing Results
	Hospital Locations
	York Region Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Sites
	YorkSafe Public Health Inspections Results
Recreation	Bike Paths
	York Region Public Event Listing
Transportation	Cordon Count Data
	Red Light Camera Locations
	Regionally Owned Roads
	Road Network
	Transportation Tomorrow Survey Results
	York Region Transit Monthly Ridership Data
	York Region Transit/VIVA Real-Time Service Alerts, Vehicle Location and Trip Updates
	York Region Transit/VIVA Schedules

Year 4 - 2017 Datasets Proposed for Release

Business and Economy	External Job Postings
	Total Investment Portfolio Returns
	Historical / Actual Assessment Growth Information
	Capital Plan Financing Sources (Revenue Sources)
	Statement of Financial Position
	Statement of Cash Flows
	Statement of Change in Net Debt
	Statement of Operations

Environment	Forested Areas
	Waste Management Diversion Report Statistics
	Rain Gauge Locations
	Aquifer High Vulnerability
	Intake Protection Zones
Government	Family Composition and Low Income Census Tables
	Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests Annual Report Statistics
Health and Public Safety	Breastfeeding Clinic Locations
	Prenatal Class Locations
	Dental Screening Program locations
	Sexual Health Clinic Locations
	Needle Exchange Locations
	Live Births
	Teen Pregnancies (subject to release guidelines)
	Extreme Heat Alert
	Early Development Instrument (EDI) Neighbourhood Boundaries & Results
Infrastructure	Current and Upcoming Construction
	Current Environmental Assessments
Transportation	Annual Average Daily Traffic Counts (AADT)
	Planned Road Closures
	Speed Zones
	Unplanned Road Closures

Year 5 - 2018 Datasets Proposed for Release

Business and Economy	Human Resources Recruitment Statistics
	Historical/Current Tax Ratios by Property Class
	Finance Department Key Performance Indicators
Environment	Environmental Compliance Approvals & Permits to Take Water
Government	Social Media Analytics
	York.ca User Statistics
Health and Public Safety	Disease/Accident: Hospitalizations, Emergency Room Visits and Mortality Rates
	Mood Disorder/Depression: Hospitalizations and Emergency Room Visits
Transportation	Number of Lanes on Regional Roads
	Traffic Data

Year 4 = 2017 Year 5 = 2018