

Council Policy

Public Engagement



Program Impacted	People, Relationships & Partnerships The City of Edmonton's service delivery is informed by people and is optimized by relationships and partnerships. Civic Services Edmontonians contribute to civic society and are engaged in promoting the quality of the community.
Number	C593D
Date of Approval	April 8, 2025
Approval History	October 22, 2024 (<i>Next Scheduled Review</i> date revised) June 11, 2024 (<i>Next Scheduled Review</i> date revised) June 7, 2021 April 11/12, 2017
Next Scheduled Review	April 10, 2029

Statement

Public Engagement is a process that creates opportunities for people to contribute to decision-making by City Council and Administration about the City's policies, programs, projects and services.

The City of Edmonton values public engagement processes and activities that contribute to policy, program, service and project decisions by providing City Council and Administration with information to support decision-making. Administration communicates how public input is collected and used.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the City of Edmonton:

- Achieves a consistent, coordinated, outcomes-driven and equity-based approach to public engagement;
- Facilitates public input to decision-making through appropriate, effective and efficient consultation, involvement, collaboration and empowerment processes; and

- Adheres to the public engagement requirements within the *Municipal Government Act* and other applicable legislation.

Public engagement is one factor in the decision-making process and will have more or less influence relative to other factors for every specific decision.

Guiding Principles

Administration will use the following principles when considering and conducting Public Engagement:

- *Shared responsibility* - Engagement is a shared responsibility between the City and people. Creating opportunities for engagement in an authentic way encourages people to choose to participate which supports democratic decision-making.
- *Relationship-building and perspective-seeking* - Meaningful engagement values various and local perspectives and community experiences; it recognizes respect and equitable processes foster trust and stronger relationships.
- *Proactive, timely and transparent* - People have enough time and notice to engage early in the process which enables considered input and impact on decision-making. We are transparent by clearly communicating how input will be assessed and used during engagement and reported on afterwards.
- *Equitable, inclusive and accessible* - Engagement planning and delivery is equitable, inclusive and accessible to best serve our City by encouraging two-way conversations and strategies that reach diverse communities and ensure people feel heard and know their input is valued.
- *Innovative and continuously improving* - As Edmonton grows and evolves, we aspire to co-create and embrace new and better engagement processes, tools and tactics based on a sound approach to evaluating success.

Outcomes

Public Engagement allows decision-makers to strive for the best understanding of the public's views and perspectives on topics and issues, consider public input in decision-making, and communicate to the public how their input was used and why decisions were made.

Public engagement offers the opportunity for City Council to:

- Deepen its role as community representatives through enhanced understanding of the interests, values and perspectives of the public.
- Work with Administration to identify areas where public engagement can and will make a meaningful difference to Council decisions.
- Promote and direct the public to public engagement activities.
- Carefully and thoughtfully consider public input as part of the decision-making process.

- Ensure public expectations for public engagement opportunities and influence are balanced with awareness of resource capacity, fiscal realities and other important context and considerations.
- Clearly explain the rationale for decisions and how public input was used in decision-making.

Requirements

Administration will use a data-driven approach ensuring the responsible use of City resources and will consider public engagement when:

1. Designing or implementing a new policy, program, project or service that has an impact on the public;
2. Evaluating, changing or ending an existing policy, program, project or service that has an impact on the public;
3. Fulfilling a legislated or regulated requirement; or
4. Responding to a community-initiated request.

Public Engagement activities will be approached in alignment with the Public Engagement Spectrum as described in the Public Engagement Framework.