

HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 3

Halifax Regional Council
June 28, 2022

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

Original Signed by 

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 7, 2022

SUBJECT: World Council on City Data (WCCD)

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

2021-25 HRM Strategic Priorities Plan

Administrative Priority Outcome: Responsible Government - Well Managed: Corporate Performance Management Program

ISO 37120 certification from World Council on City Data.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Council and Chief Administrative Officer relationship 34 34 (1) The Chief Administrative Officer is the head of the administrative branch of the government of the Municipality and is responsible to the Council for the proper administration of the affairs of the Municipality in accordance with the by-laws of the Municipality and the policies adopted by the Council.

BACKGROUND

In June 2020, Corporate Planning commenced work on the Corporate Performance Management Program (CPMP), formerly known as the Performance Management Framework. The focus of the first phase of the program was to create a 4-yr Strategic Plan for the organization with the appropriate key performance indicators to gauge the achievement of results towards HRM's Strategic and Administrative Priority Outcomes. The analysis of existing KPIs determined that there was a lack of "quality of life" indicators to measure community-based outcomes as well as a lack of benchmark indicators to contrast and compare performance against the results of other jurisdictions.

To address this gap, the municipality entered a partnership with the World Council on City Data (WCCD), a non-profit organization that created and administers the first globally comparative international standard on city indicators, ISO 13720 - Sustainable Cities. There are over 100 cities representing 35 countries currently certified, with 30 Canadian cities having achieved platinum certification. WCCD indicators provide

information on performance across a wide range of service and governance areas, including Economy, Health, Environment, Population and Social Condition, Urban Planning and Transportation, among others. Several of these indicators have been incorporated into the Strategic Performance Snapshot, HRM's public facing performance dashboard that launched on April 25, 2022.

The adoption of these indicators will provide important standardized benchmark comparisons for the Municipality; showcase the quality of life in HRM to the world; provide the Municipality with consistent and reliable data from which to make evidence-based decisions and provide HRM with indicators that are more aligned with our strategic and service outcomes.

The WCCD indicators are governed by an ISO standard which requires data submitted by the organization to be validated by both the WCCD and a third-party auditor to ensure that HRM's results can be reliably compared to the results of other partner jurisdictions. Certification is achieved by collecting and submitting data for Core and Supporting WCCD indicators. There are 5 levels of certification (see below). The certification level depends on how many indicators the city has provided data for. Upon certification the municipality will receive access to the WCCD's full dataset of comparative indicators for other cities, which includes their data visualization portal.

ASPIRATIONAL	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
30-44 Core Indicators	45-59 Indicators 45 Core + 0-14 Supporting	60-74 Indicators 45 Core + 15-29 Supporting	75-89 Indicators 45 Core + 30-44 Supporting	90-104 Indicators 45 Core + 45-59 Supporting

DISCUSSION

Over the past year Corporate Planning has worked with internal business units, external partners such as Nova Scotia Power, Halifax Water, Province of Nova Scotia, and Halifax Partnership to compile the data to support certification and has, where possible, stored the data sets in the HRM's data warehouse and Geographic Information System for future use by the organization. As a result of these efforts on July 12, 2022 HRM will receive Platinum certification, the highest level of certification, for submitting data for 90 indicators (45 Core, 45 Supporting).

The WCCD ISO 37120 certification involves both a Certification Ceremony and a Media/Social Media Campaign.

Certification Ceremony

At the Certification Ceremony the WCCD presents the municipality with its WCD ISO 37120 Certification. As meetings have returned to in-person effective June 14th, this presentation would occur at Regional Council. The recommended date for this presentation is Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

The Certification Ceremony typically includes:

- An introduction from the city on its work with WCCD
- A presentation from WCCD (background, celebratory data points, certification from WCCD President & CEO)
- A response from the Mayor / questions from Council, etc. (approx. 20 minutes total)

Once certified HRM can add the ISO Platinum Certification to Halifax.ca.

Media / Social Media

WCCD certification is supported with a variety of communications. Specifically, a news release will be produced, including a quote from WCCD President and CEO Dr. Patricia McCarney. WCCD certification news releases typically include a quote from municipal leadership, most often from the Mayor.

The certification announcement will be shared through social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) and the municipality's media distribution list. WCCD shares this announcement across its social media channels, reaching thousands of city leaders worldwide. WCCD can support HRM with any media relations / enquiries from local, regional, or national media.

A variety of internal communications including Employee Hub and Employee Bulletin will be used to advise staff of this accomplishment. Digital screens throughout the municipality will also showcase the certification.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated expense to cover the costs of WCCD attending the certification ceremony would be approximately \$2,500, including flights / hotels / transportation.

The annual cost of membership is \$12,500US.

These costs will be absorbed internally in Finance & Asset Management's operating budget, A301-6301.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was required. The municipality collaborated with several external organizations to obtain data.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Wendy Lines, Director Corporate Planning and Performance, Finance & Asset Management, 902.210.9992