Report to/Rapport au :

Information Technology Sub-Committee
Sous-comité de la technologie de l'information

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CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE	Ref N°: ACS2012-COS-ITS-0003

SUBJECT: **OPEN DATA UPDATE**

OBJET :   **COMPTE RENDU SUR LES DONNÉES OUVERTES**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Information Technology Sub-Committee receive this report for information.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Sous-comité de la technologie de l'information prenne connaissance du présent rapport.

BACKGROUND
On May 12, 2010 Ottawa City Council approved the OpenData report (ACS2010-COS-ITS-0005), and the OpenData website was launched by the Information Technology Services Department (ITS). Since that time, ITS has provided several updates to the IT Sub-Committee with the last update provided in October 2011. This update included information regarding OpenData developments around the world and the City, as well as future plans.

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee on the current status of the OpenData Program and plans for the program moving forward.

<u>DISCUSSION</u>
This report provides an update on the following areas:

- Data Sets and Departments
- Apps and Other Outcomes
- Events
- Future Plans

Data Sets and Departments

Since the last update to the IT Sub-Committee, the OpenData catalogue has grown from 42 data sets, including 83 distinct data files, to 63 data sets and 121 data files. This represents a growth rate of approximately 50 per cent and exceeds the recently adopted corporate performance indicator for OpenData (95 data files by the end of 2012). Some of the new data sets include:

- 2012 Budget (Capital and Operating)
- 2010 Municipal Election (detailed results and voter turnout)
- Garbage and recycling schedules
- Public Automated External Defibrillators (AED) locations
- Library events and locations
- Beaches and outdoor pools
- Tree inventory
- Bike counters
- Business Improvement Areas (BIA) listing
- Live bus data

The growth in data sets also represents a growth in the number of departments that have data in the catalogue. These departments include long-time participating departments such as Parks, Recreation & Culture and the Surveys & Mapping unit of Infrastructure services, as well as new participants such as the Ottawa Paramedic Service, the Ottawa Public Library, and OC Transpo.

Apps and Other Outcomes

One of the expected outcomes and benefits of providing data in an open format is the creation of mobile and web applications ("apps") by third parties, which provide residents, businesses, and visitors of Ottawa with additional access points to our information and services. Since the launch of the program in 2010, and including apps submitted to the Apps4Ottawa contest, there have been more than 100 separate apps built using city data. Currently, there are approximately 50 known apps that provide information and services to users. A list of some of these apps can be found at the following links: http://is.gd/VFv7nm and http://opendataapps.org/. These apps cover a number of key areas such as recreation, culture, commuting, health, garbage/recycling, and civic affairs, helping users do everything from finding recreation activities (http://ottawarec.ca) to seeing who their elected officials are from all levels of government (http://represent.opennorth.ca/).

Beyond the third-party application development, the OpenData Program maintains its focus on improving access to information and supporting the City's commitment to transparency and accountability. The data posted to the OpenData Catalogue in this facet has facilitated:

- research by groups, such as the Ottawa Neighbourhood Study;
- research by individuals, such as studies of the City's transit services;
- the work of special interest groups and concerned residents, such as cycling advocacy groups or OpenNorth; and
- the work of the media.

Events

Since the last update to the IT Sub-Committee, the OpenData Program has actively participated in two key public events: the Second International OpenData Day on December 3, 2011, and the Ottawa Transit Data Day on June 2, 2012. International OpenData Day encourages cities around the world to host events focused on OpenData. The City co-hosted the Ottawa event with the *OpenData Ottawa* community group at City Hall, with nearly 100 registrants including technologists and non-technologists, to talk about how City data could be used. The event led to the conception of several interesting projects and collaborations, including ones focused on pedestrian issues or combining OC Transpo and Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO) transit schedules and data.

Ottawa Transit Data Day was the first OpenData event in Ottawa that focused on a specific area of data. The event was attended by local residents, out-of-town participants, City of Ottawa Senior Managers and staff, and included presentations from a number of community members demonstrating what they have built using City transit data. The event has been well documented on the *OpenData Ottawa* website: http://is.gd/fvyiIf.

Future Plans

The following are key activities that are being planned for the OpenData Program in the upcoming year:

- Apps4Ottawa – The OpenData Program is currently planning the next iteration of the contest, which is expected to launch in early 2013. Details of the contest will follow in a subsequent update to the IT Sub-Committee.

- Data Portal – The current data catalogue was implemented as a low-cost means to get the program started. However, as the catalogue grows in size and complexity, with the inclusion of more dynamic data sets requiring regular and frequent updating, it has become clear that a more sophisticated solution is required. The new OpenData portal is expected to support significant growth in the number of data sets, as well as facilitate access to the data sets through web services thus further expanding the benefits of the OpenData Program.

- App Gallery – The OpenData Program will be launching a gallery following the November re-launch of ottawa.ca to provide visitors with a means to quickly find apps that have been created by third parties using the City's data.

- Drupal Platform – The movement of ottawa.ca to the Drupal platform provides an opportunity for a significant increase in the number of data sets available in the OpenData catalogue, particularly for dynamic data sets such as schedules, calendars, and notifications. The OpenData Program will work closely with ServiceOttawa and other departments to explore and implement these opportunities.

- Hackfests and Other Community Events – The OpenData Program will continue to work with community members, including the *OpenData Ottawa* community group, and other City departments to identify opportunities and common goals, including hosting and participating in OpenData events throughout the year such as those described in this report.

- Internal Collaborations – There are many opportunities for the OpenData Program to work with other City departments to achieve common goals. This includes the City Clerk's Office initiatives related to routine disclosure in support of corporate transparency and accountability, as well as departments working on other strategic priorities such as health and quality of life, biodiversity and ecosystem health, or connectivity and mobility.

- External Collaborations – The OpenData Program is currently involved in several external collaborations, including working with other OpenData cities and jurisdictions across the country with a focus on common problems and opportunities in the industry. The City also works with organizations such as the Ottawa Neighborhood Study, Municipal Information Systems Association (MISA), OpenNorth, and most recently McGill University through a federal grant proposal. These collaborations will continue and other opportunities will be explored to help achieve the goals and objectives of the City and the OpenData Program.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS
There are no rural implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION
ITS and ServiceOttawa staff were consulted during the development of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS
There are no legal implications associated with the information outlined in this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS
There are no risks associated with the information outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS
The OpenData Program follows all applicable policies and guidelines including those related to accessibility and the ottawa.ca website. OpenData further supports accessibility goals by helping to make City information and data easier to access and reducing the reliance on proprietary software.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS
The OpenData Program provides the City with an effective and efficient communication channel to provide the public with information and data related to the environmental conditions of the City.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS
The majority of the initiatives described within this report will be completed through standard operational work within the OpenData Program with the exception of the implementation of a new OpenData portal. The implementation of the portal will require external resources for implementation and testing (funded from the capital account 906549) as well as project resources from ITS as established in IT project IT002809, which includes the establishment of an OpenData architecture and the implementation of a number of new data sets through 2013.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES
OpenData has been identified as a Strategic Initiative for the City (SI #50). This strategic initiative supports the Strategic Objective of improved operational performance falling under the Strategic Priority of Service Excellence.

DISPOSITION
The IT Services Department will action any direction received as part of consideration of this report.