

**Policy Title:** Engage Policy  
**Policy Number:** CP2023-05  
**Report Number:** PFC2013-0235  
**Adopted by/Date:** 2013 May 27  
**Effective Date:** 2013 May 27  
**Last Amended:** 2016 January 07  
**Policy Owner:** Customer Service and Communications

## **1. POLICY STATEMENT**

The City of Calgary (Council and Administration) recognizes that decisions are improved when we engage with the individuals and groups impacted by, or interested in, those decisions. Where appropriate and within the City's ability to finance and resource, the City commits to conduct transparent and inclusive engagement processes that are responsive and accountable.

## **2. PURPOSE**

The Engage Policy provides the guidelines for the development and implementation of engagement processes to achieve the following:

- alignment with City Council's priorities for Calgarian-centric service delivery
- support for City Council's decision-making by providing information about Calgarians' values, experiences and perspectives
- consistent and clear engagement practices
- enhancement of The City of Calgary's reputation as an organization that listens to Calgarians and provides equitable opportunities to provide feedback.

Administration is directed to develop and adhere to the Engage Administration Framework – outlining how The City's commitment to engagement will be carried out, how it will be resourced, and how accountability will be managed.

## **3. DEFINITIONS**

"Engagement" at The City of Calgary is defined as: purposeful dialogue between The City, impacted or interested Calgarians and other communities or groups to gather information to influence decision-making.

"Calgarians and other communities or groups" for the purpose of this policy are defined as anyone (person or group of people) who can impact or be impacted by the results of a decision made by The City, and may include: Calgarians, neighbouring jurisdictions, the public, customers, businesses, community organizations and partners, other government agencies and any other body interacting with The City.

#### **4. APPLICABILITY**

The City of Calgary assigns a high priority to appropriately involving Calgarians and other communities or groups early on and throughout the process, especially when the decision(s) impact their lives. This policy incorporates the following five principles for guiding engagement initiatives:

1. Accountability – The City upholds the commitment it makes to engage and demonstrate that results and outcomes of the engagement processes are consistent with the approved plans for engagement.
  - Stewardship of the Engage Policy lies with Council.
  - The City Manager, and General Managers and/or designates, are responsible for adherence to the Engage Policy and stewardship of the Engage Administration Framework.
  - The City's project managers and work leads are responsible for the correct and thorough completion of The City's engagement processes, as directed in the Engage Administration Framework.
  - Customer Service & Communications is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Engage Administration Framework, including The City's processes, tools, training and data archives with respect to engagement.
2. Inclusiveness – The City makes its best efforts to reach, involve and hear from those who are impacted directly or indirectly.
  - Opportunities are provided for impacted or interested Calgarians and other communities or groups to get involved at the beginning and throughout a City project or initiative when decisions will impact their lives.
  - Best efforts are made to accommodate diverse needs and backgrounds including those in accordance with CSPA003 Calgary Corporate Accessibility Policy, CSPA034 Welcoming Community Policy, CP2017-02 Indigenous Policy and CP2019-01 Social Wellbeing Policy.
  - Engagement plans and activities are developed using The City's Inclusive Engagement Guide and Multicultural Strategy in order to be inclusive and welcoming to all.
3. Transparency – The City provides clear, timely and complete information, and endeavours to ensure decision processes, procedures, and constraints are understood and followed.

- The promise, purpose and limitations on engaging Calgarians and other communities or groups are made clear.
  - The roles and responsibilities of all parties are clearly communicated.
  - Calgarians and other communities or groups are provided with relevant background and context about the project or work requiring engagement, as well as information about how to participate in the engagement process.
  - The City communicates back:
    - what was heard – sharing input received, and
    - how input was considered in decision-making, including how it was used and rationale if not used.
4. Responsiveness – The City of Calgary endeavours to understand the ideas, insights and experiences of Calgarians and other communities or groups and the underlying values that shape individual interests:
- Timely information is provided to Calgarians and other communities or groups about opportunities for input through channels that best suit the audience.
  - Feedback is collected and delivered to Calgarians and other communities or groups to share input on engagement processes and outcomes.
  - The City is receptive to hearing the views of Calgarians and other communities or groups.

## 5. **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Municipal Government Act, Part 7, section 216.1 (1)

## 6. **PROCEDURE**

### **Application of the Engage Policy**

This policy applies to the following types of opportunities for engagement that exist within The City:

- Engagement in specific planning, policy, and project initiatives that directly or indirectly impact Calgarians and other communities or groups.
- Mandated/legislated processes involving public participation.

### **Administration of the Engage Policy**

Customer Service & Communications has the following responsibilities:

- Develop and keep current the Engage Administration Framework.
- Provide internal training and build familiarity with the Engage Policy and Engage Administrative Framework.
- Provide advice regarding engagement process design.
- Provide support to Council, Administration, civic partners, Calgarians and other communities or groups with regards to engagement expertise and process stewardship for consistent application of this policy.
- Advocate for, coordinate, and link engagement activities, standards and practices across The City through the Engage Administration Framework.

### Spectrum of Strategies and Promises

This policy includes a spectrum of four strategies and associated promises related to reaching and involving Calgarians and other communities or groups in specific engagement initiatives. Whenever The City embarks on an engagement process, the purpose of the engagement and the promise will be clarified at the beginning of the process. The Inform/Communicate tasks are required for all engagement initiatives at The City. The processes and details of how to conduct engagement will be outlined in the Engage Administration Framework.

<b>INFORM / COMMUNICATE</b>				
<p>The City will provide context and background information (for all levels of engagement) to assist Calgarians and other communities or groups in understanding issues, problems, alternatives and/or solutions, and services we provide. Our commitment is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information that is timely, accurate, balanced, objective, and easily understood.</li> <li>• Respond to questions for clarification and direct Calgarians and other communities or groups to sources of additional information.</li> <li>• Share with Calgarians and other communities or groups what we heard from them.</li> <li>• Share with Calgarians and other communities or groups if the input cannot be used in making the decision and the reasoning for why it may not be used.</li> <li>• Share how the input was factored into the decision.</li> </ul>				
	<b>Listen &amp; Learn</b>	<b>Consult</b>	<b>Collaborate</b>	<b>Empower</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	Participants and The City listen to and learn about each	Participants' feedback is obtained through consultation to analyze issues and build	Participants are considered partners in the decision-making process, including	Aspects of the decision-making process are delegated to participants

	other's views, plans, concerns, and expectations.	alternatives, and thereby make contributions to the decision-making process. Consulting with participants ensures issues and concerns are understood and considered.	collaboration on analyzing issues, building alternatives, identifying preferred solutions and making recommendations.	
<b>Promise</b>	We will listen to participants and learn about their plans, views, issues, concerns and expectations and ideas.	We will consult with participants to obtain feedback and ensure their input is considered and incorporated to the maximum extent possible. We undertake to advise how consultation impacted the decisions and outcomes.	We will partner with participants in a process that results in joint recommendations. We undertake to advise how collaboration impacted decision-making.	Where legislation permits, we will abide with the decisions made under delegated authority. Where legislation precludes making such a commitment in advance, we undertake to be guided by the outcome.

7. **SCHEDULE(S)** N/A

8. **AMENDMENT(S)**

Date of Council Decision	Report/By-Law	Description
2003		New Policy
2010		Revisions to policy. Policy number changed from FCS002 to CS009 due to department reorganization
2013 May 27	PFC2013-0235	
2016 January 07		Revised from engage! Policy to Engage Policy

9. **REVIEWS(S)**

Date of Policy Owner's Review	Description
February 2, 2023	Text revisions for clarification and transfer to new template