Ottawa City Council / Conseil Municipal d'Ottawa

Motion

Meeting date / Date de la réunion : 25 November 2026 / 25 novembre 2026

Agenda No. / Ordre du jour nº : 01

Item / Point de l'ordre du jour : 9.1, 2026-2030 Council Governance Review

Re / Objet : Retention of the Built Heritage Committee

Moved by / Motion de : R. King

Seconded by / Appuyée par : M. Sutcliffe

WHEREAS Ottawa, as Canada's capital, is home to a significant concentration of designated heritage properties, historic neighbourhoods and cultural heritage resources that contribute to the city's history, character and identity; and

WHEREAS in 2026, Ottawa commemorates the 200th anniversary of the founding of Bytown, providing an opportunity to recognize the city's history and reaffirm its commitment to preserving its built heritage for future generations; and

WHEREAS Section 28 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* permits Council to establish, by by-law, a municipal heritage committee to advise and assist Council on matters relating to Parts IV and V of the Act and other heritage matters specified by Council; and

WHEREAS the Built Heritage Committee was established on December 7, 2022, through Motion No. 2022-03/05, as a standalone Standing Committee of Council for the 2022-2026 Term of Council, composed of five Members of Council and four public members; and

WHEREAS the Built Heritage Committee provides a dedicated forum for heritage matters to receive focused consideration, informed discussion and appropriate oversight; and

WHEREAS the Committee benefits from the participation of public members with professional knowledge and experience in architecture, heritage conservation and related disciplines, whose expertise contributes to informed decision-making; and

WHEREAS the Committee provides an important opportunity for residents, community associations and heritage advocates to participate in decisions affecting Ottawa's built heritage; and

WHEREAS recent changes to provincial heritage legislation reinforce the importance of maintaining a strong municipal commitment to heritage conservation; and

WHEREAS during the 2022-2026 Term of Council, the Built Heritage Committee considered 175 reports, of which only 14 also required consideration by the Planning and Housing Committee and none by the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, demonstrating the Committee's distinct workload and the additional responsibilities that would be transferred to those committees if it were eliminated; and

WHEREAS during consultation with Members of Council in advance of the 2026-2030 Governance Review, staff identified a recommendation to make the Built Heritage Committee solely responsible for heritage permit applications, eliminating the requirement for further consideration by the Planning and Housing Committee or Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, recognizing that heritage permit applications need not be reviewed by two standing committees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council amend Part I, Recommendation 1 of the 2026-2030 Council Governance Review report to retain the Built Heritage Committee as a standalone Standing Committee of Council for the 2026-2030 Term of Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Built Heritage Committee retain its existing mandate, responsibilities, membership composition, meeting schedule and frequency, and reporting relationships as established for the 2022-2026 Term of Council, including its role as the City of Ottawa's municipal heritage committee under Section 28 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council approve the Built Heritage Committee as the sole standing committee responsible for considering applications for heritage permits under sections 33, 34 and 42 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, with its recommendations proceeding directly to Council, and consequential Terms of Reference amendments to remove the requirement for the Planning and Housing Committee and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee to consider these heritage permit applications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Part V, Recommendation 6 of the 2026-2030 Council Governance Review report be amended to replace the "Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee/Planning and Housing Committee" with the "Chair of the Built Heritage Committee" in the proposed process for engagement on reports regarding the disposal of City-owned heritage properties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the current public members of the Built Heritage Committee who are willing to continue to serve shall do so until their successors are appointed, and the Code of Conduct for Public Members of the Built Heritage Committee shall continue to apply to the committee's public members pending the implementation of any new code of conduct as described in Part II of the 2026-2030 Council Governance Review report, as amended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Clerk be directed to make all necessary amendments to the 2026-2030 Council Governance Review report recommendations, committee Terms of Reference, by-laws, policies and procedural documents to give effect to this motion.