CITY OF
VICTORIA

Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of May 17, 2018

To:	Committee of the Whole	**Date:**	May 4, 2018
From:	Bill Eisenhauer, Head of Engagement		
Subject:	Open Data Portal Launch		

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City has recently launched a new Open Data Portal. The portal represents a major step forward for public accessibility to the City's open data and the first major enhancement since the 2013 launch of the Open Data Catalogue on the City's website.

The new portal allows people to view and interact with the close to 300 data sets in a comprehensive and user-friendly way, including enhanced search, graphing, mapping and charting features. The previous catalogue provided data sets in list form only.

The platform's technology also provides the opportunity for users to analyze and chart data based on selected parameters. In the first phase of the portal's rollout, permit data has been selected for customized viewing, giving people the ability to view and sort permits by year, neighbourhood, value and property type.

Future phases will include more visualizations of additional categories of information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update and demonstration of the City's new Open Data portal.

BACKGROUND

In 2011, City Council adopted the principles and steps outlined in the Open Government through Open Data resolution. In early 2013 an open data catalogue was launched on the City's website, and in 2014 an Open Data Licence was adopted. Since that time, the City has maintained the catalogue and made modest gains by adding new datasets regularly, but with no new functionality.

In 2017, Victoria ranked 29th out of 61 participating municipalities across the country in *Public Sector Digest's* Open Cities Index, ranking municipalities on progress towards open data. It should be noted that Victoria is the only municipality in the region and one of a handful in B.C. that are included in this list.

The launch of the new portal is a significant step forward and gives the City a more sophisticated and user-friendly Open Data presence.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

Staff in IT, GIS and Engagement have been working on the new Open Data Portal over the last several months.

The Open Data Portal is built on Esri's Open Data platform. This is the same company from which we licence GIS software. It is included in our existing GIS licencing, so there are no extra software licence fees to use it.

Ongoing improvements are planned to include more visualizations of additional categories of data.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Accessibility Impact Statement
There are no accessibility impacts related to this initiative.

2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan
The Open Data Portal upgrades supports Objective #2 of Council's Strategic Plan to Engage and Empower the Community.
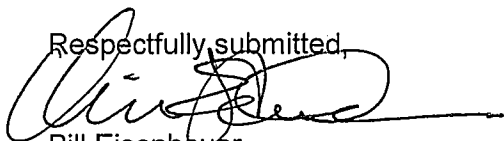
Impacts to Financial Plan
There are no impacts to the Financial Plan. The budget to set up the platform came from the 2017 IT Capital budget, and was spent in that year. There are no ongoing licencing fees specific to the portal as our existing GIS licence covers this use.

CONCLUSIONS

The City's new Open Data Portal represents a major step forward for public accessibility to the City's open data and the first major enhancement since the 2013 launch of the Open Data Catalogue on the City's website.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Eisenhauer
Head of Engagement

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date: