TO: 
CHAIR AND MEMBERS 
BOARD OF CONTROL 
MEETING ON DECEMBER 13, 2006

FROM: 
ROB PANZER 
GENERAL MANAGER OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 06-33 CONSULTING SERVICES TO UNDERTAKE A COMMERCIAL POLICY REVIEW FOR THE FIVE-YEAR OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW FOR THE CITY OF LONDON

RECOMMENDATION

That on the recommendation of the General Manager of Planning & Development:

(a) the proposal submitted by urbanMetrics, 460-144 Front Street West, Toronto, ON M5J 2L7 at their proposed cost of $111,151.00 GST extra, BE ACCEPTED; and

(b) approval hereby given BE CONDITIONAL upon the Corporation entering into a formal agreement or having a purchase order, or contract record relating to the subject matter of this approval.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

None.

BACKGROUND

Purchasing Process
The City issued a request for proposals (RFP) and received four (4) submissions. These were evaluated against pre-determined criteria and three (3) firms were invited to make a formal presentation to the Evaluation Committee. urbanMetrics was ranked the best firm to undertake this review.

Discussion
As part of the Official Plan Five-Year Review, an evaluation of the City's commercial policies was identified as one of the issues to be considered. Funds were identified in the 2006 budget to retain Consultants to undertake these types of specialized reviews.

The commercial policy review is intended to address four (4) key issues:

1. What are the national, provincial, regional and local market conditions and lifestyle trends likely to influence the amount, location, design, form and function of commercial development in London over the planning period?

2. How is the current commercial policy regime positioned to address current demand and expected trends?

3. How, if at all, should the current policy framework be modified to serve the City's commercial land needs over the planning period?

4. Does the current policy framework align with the City's objectives for enhanced design?

In addition to these issues, a series of specific tasks was identified in the City's RFP for this study. Among those specific tasks is an overview of the "state of the Downtown", and a review of the specific Downtown policies to ensure that they continue to be effective in the promotion of the Downtown as the primary multi-functional activity centre and cultural district serving the City. urbanMetrics has undertaken similar reviews and studies, most recently for the Town of Oakville and the Town of Clarington.
Financial Impact
Funding has been provided in the 2006 Current Operating Budget.

Acknowledgements
This report was prepared with the assistance of Brian Turcotte and Gregg Barrett of the Planning Division and Karen English, Procurement Officer, Purchasing and Supply Division.

SUBMITTED BY: MIKE ST. AMANT
CITY TREASURER

RECOMMENDED BY: ROB PANZER
GENERAL MANAGER OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT