

Report #8 of the Finance & Administration Committee

For consideration by Regional Council

November 29, 2023

The Finance & Administration Committee recommends approval of the following:

1. Appointment of new member to the Durham Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) ([2023-A-17](#))

That the following person be appointed to the Durham Accessibility Advisory Committee:

Ms. Meghann Lloyd – Professional from the stakeholder community.

2. Extension of the Agreement with Community Development Council Durham for Settlement Services for Asylum-Seekers and Refugees ([2023-F-27](#))

A) That Regional staff be delegated authority, for purposes of the Region's Humanitarian response to asylum-seekers and refugees, to extend the Region's agreement with Community Development Council Durham, execute any transfer payment agreements, expend funds up to a maximum of \$6.0 million in accordance with the program guidelines, make any modifications to the program(s) to ensure desired outcomes are achieved, receive any federal and/or provincial funds for this response, and waive the Region's Purchasing By-law and Budget Management Policy as required for this response; and

B) That any costs associated with the extension of this agreement not reimbursed under the federal Interim Housing Assistance Program or the provincial Homelessness Prevention Program be funded at the discretion of the Commissioner of Finance.

3. Debt Strategy update ([2023-F-28](#))

A) That Council approve the transition to the issuance of Sinking Fund debentures, where warranted, to support borrowing needs of the Region and local municipalities;

B) That staff report back on a Debt Management Policy to formalize the standards and controls of the capital financing and debt issuance activities for the Region of Durham; and

C) That staff report back on an updated Statement of Investment Policy and Goals which incorporates investment objectives for Sinking Fund investments managed internally by the Region.

4. Authorization to Undertake a Review and Update of the Seaton Water Supply and Sanitary Sewerage Service Area Specific Development Charge By-law and to Proceed with the Public Process for the Passage of a new Development Charge By-law (2023-F-29)
 - A) That a review and update of the Seaton Water Supply and Sanitary Sewerage Service Area Specific Development Charge By-law, be undertaken;
 - B) That the Statutory Public Meeting of Regional Council, as required by the Development Charges Act, 1997 (DCA) be held on March 27, 2024 in the Regional Council Chambers at the beginning of the regular Regional Council meeting to consider the proposed Area Specific Development Charge By-law and Background Study for water supply and sanitary sewerage services in the Seaton area;
 - C) That the proposed Seaton Water Supply and Sanitary Sewerage Area Specific Development Charge By-law and Background Study, as required by the DCA be released to the Public at no charge upon request to the Regional Clerk's Department and posted on the Region's website, commencing March 12, 2024;
 - D) That staff be authorized to place appropriate notification in newspapers of sufficiently general circulation in Durham Region and the Regional web-site setting forth the date, time, location and purpose of the Statutory Public Meeting, and the date and contact for the release of the proposed Seaton Water Supply and Sanitary Sewerage Area Specific Development Charge By-law and Background Study no later than March 6, 2024;
 - E) That the consulting firm of Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. and legal firm of WeirFoulds LLP be retained to assist staff with this Development Charge review and preparation of the Development Charge Background Study and By-law at a cost up to \$100,000, to be financed from the Seaton project management / capital reserve; and
 - F) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to execute the necessary agreements.

5. Durham Region's response to the proposed Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act (Bill 134) (2023-F-30)
 - A) That Report #2023-F-30 of the Commissioner of Finance be endorsed as Durham Region's response to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting regarding the proposed Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act, 2023 with the following key comments and recommendations that the Province:

- i. refine the definition of “affordable residential unit” to consider affordability across various unit types (i.e., single-detached, semi-detached, townhomes, and apartments by number of bedrooms);
 - ii. update the definition of “affordable residential unit” to ensure that affordable residential units are only available to households that meet and maintain certain income thresholds;
 - iii. allow municipalities to structure the affordable residential unit exemption to address timing of when DCs are collected relative to when the final purchase price or rental rate is known; and
 - iv. make municipalities whole by fully funding the shortfalls created by the affordable residential unit exemption to avoid transferring the cost of this exemption to the existing property tax, and water and sewer user rate base.
- B) That a copy of Report #2023-F-30 of the Commissioner of Finance and Council resolution be sent to all area municipalities in Durham Region and Durham members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs).

Respectfully submitted,

K. Ashe, Chair, Finance & Administration Committee