

From: Dee G

Sent: April 12, 2026 6:30 PM

To: Clerks <clerks@durham.ca>; Chair; Sterling Lee; Marilyn Crawford; Joanne Dies; Shaun Collier

Subject: Report 2026-COW-18 – Alignment with Financial Sustainability

Members of Council,

Clerk, please add this correspondence to the April COW meeting. Report 2026-COW-18 appears to acknowledge that the Region's current Development Charge framework is no longer aligned with updated growth areas, legislative changes, and evolving market conditions. The recommendation is to undertake a new DC background study and by-law, with timing extending into 2027.

Taken at face value, this suggests that one of the Region's primary growth-related funding models is, at present, uncertain or incomplete. I have previously raised concerns around financial sustainability and affordability. This report seems to reinforce those concerns. If the funding model for growth is being reconsidered, I would ask:

Why is this same lens not being applied more broadly across spending decisions?

If Development Charge revenues are uncertain in timing or structure, should there not be a concurrent reassessment of:

- capital timing and infrastructure commitments,
- operational expansion, and
- overall financial exposure tied to growth?

In simple terms, if we are not confident in how growth will be funded, how can we be confident in the pace at which we are committing to spend?

This is not about stopping growth, it is about ensuring that growth remains financially sustainable and does not place unintended pressure on existing taxpayers.

Thank you

D Glass