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The Regional Municipality of Durham

Committee of the Whole Minutes

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

A regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM

Regional Chair Henry assumed the Chair.

1. Roll Call

Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

* indicates individuals who participated electronically.

Members

Present:

Councillor Anderson
Councillor Ashe* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Carter attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Collier left the meeting at 12:15 PM
Councillor Cook attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Dies
Councillor Foster attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Garrod*
Councillor Jubb attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Lee*
Councillor Marimpietri attended for part of the meeting
Councillor McDougall attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Mulcahy* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Neal
Councillor Nicholson* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Roy* left the meeting at 3:29 PM
Councillor Shahid attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Woo attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Wotten left the meeting at 5:00 PM
Councillor Yamada attended the meeting at 9:34 AM
Regional Chair Henry

Members

Absent:

Councillor Barton
Councillor Crawford

Staff Present: S. Austin, E. Baxter-Trahair, A. Burgess, S. Ciani, S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, S. Dessureault, J. Dixon, T. Fraser, S. Gill*, C. Goodchild*, B. Goodwin, A. Harras, A. Hector-Alexander, B. Holmes, M. Hubble*, J. Hunt, R. Inacio, Z. Jaffer*, R. Jagannathan, J. Kilgour, R.J. Kyle, L. Lavery*, K. McDermott*, L. McIntosh*, P. McTavish*, I. McVey*, N. Pincombe, N. Taylor*, E. Valant and D. Waechter*

2. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Regional Chair Henry referenced the Regional Council minutes of January 27, 2021, and he noted that an error has been identified in the roll call. He asked the Regional Clerk if the minutes from the meeting have been corrected.

A. Harras, Director of Legislative Services/Regional Clerk, advised that staff have reviewed the recording of the meeting and confirmed that Councillor Leahy was in attendance at the on January 27, 2021, Regional Council meeting and the minutes have been corrected to reflect this.

3. **Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

4. **Presentations**

4.1 Shaun Collier, Board Chair, DRPS and Peter Moreira, Chief of Police, DRPS Re: Durham Regional Police Service Board – Quarterly Update to Council

S. Collier, Chair of the Durham Regional Police Services Board (DRPSB), and Chief Moreira, Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS), appeared before Committee to provide a quarterly update. Highlights of their presentation included:

- Durham Regional Police Service Board
- Around The Region
- DRPS Recruitment / Hate Crime Unit Updates
- Calls For Service
- Deployment and Proactive Policing
- Provincially Mandated Strategic Investments
- Would Citizens Be Ok If We Didn't Make Strategic Investments in 2026?
- Questions?

A detailed question and answer period ensued. Chief Moreira and S. Collier responded to questions with respect to DRPS recruitment and promotions; when the next employee census is anticipated; the status of the Ontario Civilian Police

Commission (OCPC) investigation report; the vacant Chief Administrative Officer position and the current reporting structure; the metrics to measure DRPS success; status of funding from the Province of Ontario; Intimate Partner Violence; the Hate Crimes Unit; the monitoring of social media; the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI); DRPS Headquarters and facility requirements; training for new recruits and existing officers; automated speed enforcement cameras; when patrol zone boundaries were last reviewed; incidents at shopping malls; Bill 10: Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act, 2025; bail reform; Bill C-75; mandatory minimum sentences; auto theft; home invasions; the possibility of using other staff to address the amount of time officers spend on paperwork; individuals in Durham subject to mandatory supervision; the number of repeat offenders; the number of challenges in the community that relate to individuals who've needed past support from DRPS for mental health and addictions; and when the last jail was built in Canada.

Motion #76

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,

That the Rules of Procedure be waived in order to introduce a motion without notice and to alter the order of the agenda to consider Item 8.6, Motion regarding Mental Health & Addictions Urgent Care & Emergency Department, at this time.

Carried on a 2/3rds Vote

8. Members Motions

8.7 Motion regarding Release of Ontario Civilian Police Commission Investigation into Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS)

Councillor Collier advised that the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC) report was marked privileged and confidential by the OCPC. He also stated that he has written correspondence to the Inspector General, the Solicitor General, and the Attorney General, requesting them to pressure the OCPC to release their report publicly.

Discussion ensued with respect to whose responsibility it is to release the Ontario Civilian Police Commission investigation and findings. Staff responded to a question with respect to the need to request that the information be released in a redacted form.

Motion #77

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,

That we recommend to Council:

Whereas the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC) launched a formal investigation in 2019 into allegations of misconduct, harassment, and abuse of power within the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS);

And Whereas the investigation has incurred significant costs and spanned more than five years, with implications for public trust, police accountability, and governance;

And Whereas it appears that the findings of the OCPC investigation will not be released to the public, despite the nature of the allegations and the public interest in transparency and accountability;

And Whereas the lack of disclosure potentially undermines the principles of civilian oversight and confidence in both the Durham Regional Police Service and the institutions responsible for its governance;

And Whereas the OCPC is being dissolved under the new Community Safety and Policing Act, raising further concerns about the preservation and accessibility of the investigation's findings;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Regional Municipality of Durham urge the relevant authorities and bodies to give leave to the Durham Regional Police Service to release the findings and recommendations of the OCPC investigation;

And That the Province be urged to ensure that the transition to the new policing oversight framework does not result in the loss of critical information that affects public confidence and institutional integrity;

And That this motion be circulated to:

- The Premier of Ontario;
- The Solicitor General;
- The Attorney General;
- All Durham Region MPPs; and
- The Durham Regional Police Services Board.

**Carried as Amended Later in the Meeting
(See Following Motion)**

Motion #78

Moved by Councillor Chapman, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,
That Motion #77 of Councillors Foster and Councillor Anderson be amended in paragraph six by deleting the words "to give leave to the Durham Regional Police Service".

Carried Unanimously on the following Recorded Vote:

Yes: Councillor Anderson
 Councillor Ashe
 Councillor Brenner
 Councillor Carter
 Councillor Chapman

Councillor Collier
Councillor Cook
Councillor Dies
Councillor Foster
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Jubb
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Lee
Councillor Marimpietri
Councillor McDougall
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Neal
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Roy
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo
Councillor Wotten
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry

No: None

Members

Absent: Councillor Barton
Councillor Crawford

Declaration

of Interest: None

The main Motion #77 of Councillors Foster and Anderson was then put to a vote and Carried Unanimously, as amended, on the following Recorded Vote:

Yes: Councillor Anderson
Councillor Ashe
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Carter
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Collier
Councillor Cook
Councillor Dies
Councillor Foster
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Jubb
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Leahy

Councillor Lee
Councillor Marimpietri
Councillor McDougall
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Neal
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Roy
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo
Councillor Wotten
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry

No: None

Members

Absent: Councillor Barton
Councillor Crawford

Declaration
of Interest: None

8.6 Motion regarding Mental Health & Addictions Urgent Care & Emergency
Department

Discussion ensued with respect to the reasons for the project being led by Lakeridge Health; the anticipated timeline for a decision; the anticipated implementation timeline; the inclusion of high priority neighbourhoods; and how this would help individuals in the community.

Staff responded to a question with respect to the potential source of funding for the Region of Durham contribution.

Motion #79

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Collier,
That we recommend to Council:

Whereas a 24/7 Mental Health & Addictions (MHA) Urgent Care & Emergency Department is needed in Durham Region to address a critical system gap to ensure the right care in the right place by providing immediate, specialized support for individuals in crisis and assist to reduce the pressures on emergency departments and first responders; and

Whereas Lakeridge Health has a ready-to-announce Ontario Health endorsed project proposal to deliver a transformational approach to high-quality urgent and emergency mental health & addictions care through the establishment of a MHA

Urgent Care Clinic, an MHA Emergency Department and an After-Care team, along with a MHA hub at Lakeridge Health Oshawa supported by spokes in high priority neighbourhoods, all of which are complementary and supportive of the HART Hub initiative; and

Whereas Lakeridge Health Oshawa has space for and a commitment to this proposal, but requires a \$30 million initial capital investment; and

Whereas the Region of Durham and the City of Oshawa are committed to seeing this project materialize as evidenced by the many delegations made to the Provincial Government requesting approval and funding support; and

Whereas through discussions with other Ontario Municipalities that have been successful in obtaining the required funding it was learned the Provincial Government is more responsive to communities who are willing to make a funding commitment to such a project;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Region of Durham commit to a contribution of up to \$2.25 million for this project in the 2026 budget subject to approval and financing by the Ministry of Health; and

That the Commissioner of Finance determine the source of the funding; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier, the Minister of Health, the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, the Minister of Finance, Lakeridge Health and all Durham Region MPPs.

Carried Unanimously on the following Recorded Vote:

Yes: Councillor Anderson
 Councillor Ashe
 Councillor Brenner
 Councillor Carter
 Councillor Chapman
 Councillor Collier
 Councillor Cook
 Councillor Dies
 Councillor Foster
 Councillor Garrod
 Councillor Jubb
 Councillor Kerr
 Councillor Leahy
 Councillor Lee
 Councillor McDougall
 Councillor Mulcahy
 Councillor Neal
 Councillor Nicholson
 Councillor Pickles

Councillor Roy
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo
Councillor Wotten
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry

No: None

Members

Absent: Councillor Barton
Councillor Crawford
Councillor Marimpietri

Declaration

of Interest: None

- 4.2 Alyssa Skan, General Manager, Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation, and Meaghan Macdonald, Manager, Affordable Housing Development and Renewal
Re: Modernizing the Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation
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A. Skan and M. Macdonald provided a presentation regarding Modernizing the Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC). Highlights of the presentation included:

- History and Overview
- A New Direction for the DRLHC
- DRLHC Redevelopment Projects
 - Current Redevelopment Projects
 - 409 Centre Street, Whitby
 - 409 Centre Street Redevelopment
 - 409 Centre Street – Ground Level Site Plan
 - 409 Centre Street Redeveloped
 - Christine Crescent, Oshawa
 - Christine Crescent Redevelopment
 - Christine Crescent – Ground Level Site Plan
 - Christine Crescent Redeveloped
 - Broader Hill – Phase 1A
 - Malaga Road
 - 600 Townline Road
- DRLHC Revitalization Projects
 - The Importance of Revitalization Work
 - Example Building: 155 King Street East, Oshawa
- DRLHC Rebranding Project
 - A New Identity – Purpose of rebranding

- New Name
- A New Brand Identity
- A New Identity – Where it will be used
- Engagement Survey

Staff responded to questions with respect to the 409 Centre Street Whitby redevelopment project; construction cost increases; the policy for displaced tenants; and the rebranding project budget.

Staff also responded to a question with respect to the possible impacts of Bill 10: Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act, 2025.

5. Delegations

5.1 Doug Glass, Durham resident Re: Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters

D. Glass, Durham resident, appeared regarding the proposed motion seeking a report on spending at Durham Region Headquarters. D. Glass stated that over the summer considerable attention was drawn to the Durham Region Headquarters project and public reaction was strong, reflecting concerns about spending and taxation in recent years. D. Glass expressed concern at how the conversation unfolded and stated that what was missing from the public conversation was recognition that this project went through five years of oversight, Finance Committee review, more than 20 staff report updates, and public acknowledgement by the member who raised this issue on their role as a member of the Finance Committee. D. Glass also stated that the right time to raise concerns is in Committee or before the final vote at Council. D. Glass added when objections surface years later it does little to protect Durham's finances or maintain residents' confidence.

D. Glass concluded by calling on Council to reflect on the issue of professionalism. He stated that increasing rhetoric risks turning residents away from engagement and Durham residents need all Councils and their members focussed on delivering results by working together. He added that residents expect cost effective, sustainable services delivered through collaboration and accountability.

5.2 Lynda Yardley, Durham resident Re: Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters

L. Yardley, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to seek a value for money audit of renovations at Durham Region Headquarters. L. Yardley stated that she cares about how public money is spent and that renovations at Durham Region Headquarters should be about value for money. L. Yardley referenced the revolving door and washroom renovations as examples. L.

Yardley also stated that households across Durham are struggling, and we need a value for money audit to explain whether we received value for money or if it is excessive spending that is not necessary.

L. Yardley further stated that if everything is above board there should be no concerns and if it is not, we need to see what is going on and how to fix it. She added that at the end of the day Durham Region cannot keep asking residents for more and giving residents less back.

L. Yardley responded to questions from the Committee.

5.3 Lynda Yardley, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region

L. Yardley, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to seek a report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region. L. Yardley stated that the City of Toronto and York Region both have an independent Auditor General, and she is suggesting Durham Region should also have an independent Auditor General. L. Yardley also stated that it is her understanding that the current process in Durham includes the same individuals who manage the budget reviewing them. She further stated that Durham needs someone who has an independent job and an independent process, that works for the public and looks at auditing the processes and the financials.

L. Yardley concluded by stating that we need to restore trust in public figures and we need to identify things that need to be corrected. L. Yardley also stated that an independent Auditor General would monitor what is happening and monitor the budget and theoretically should find savings that could help fund other items. L. Yardley added that it is about transparency and treating this as a sacred duty to the taxpayer.

5.4 Lynda Yardley, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters

L. Yardley, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion seeking a report on spending at Durham Region Headquarters. L. Yardley stated that the community has heard different information about what has been spent on renovations at Durham Region Headquarters, and they are asking for a breakdown on the money that has been spent and on which items. L. Yardley also stated that they have heard very little details and if this is provided to the public it will restore the faith in this Council. L. Yardley also questioned what the control process is over payments if an item is installed that is faulty or not working. L. Yardley further stated that we need to make sure we are funding the needs of the community and not the wants.

L. Yardley responded to questions from the Committee.

5.5 Melissa Heckbert, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters

M. Heckbert, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to seek a value for money audit of renovations at Durham Region Headquarters. M. Heckbert stated that she was upset when she heard about the cost of the revolving door and overall cost of renovations at Durham Region Headquarters. M. Heckbert thanked Councillor Leahy for bringing the motion forward and she stated that motions like this are a reminder that accountability is not about looking backwards in blame but looking forward with purpose. She also stated that families in Durham are making tough decisions right now and when they are being asked to do more with less, they deserve to know their government is doing the same. M. Heckbert further stated that a value for money audit is a sign of good stewardship, is about confirming that every dollar spent on renovations reflected the kind of prudence we expect from those managing public funds and taxpayer funds and is a chance to rebuild trust.

M. Heckbert concluded by requesting the Committee to support the motion and help restore confidence in Durham Region.

M. Heckbert responded to questions from the Committee.

5.6 Melissa Heckbert, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region

M. Heckbert, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to seek a report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region. M. Heckbert stated that systems don't protect themselves and even the best policies can be undermined without consistent independent review. She also stated that an independent Auditor General is about structure and is a statement that the Region is serious about how it spends, how it evaluates performance and how it delivers on its promises.

M. Heckbert further stated that an Auditor General conducts independent audits and provides objective reports to legislatures on the stewardship of public resources and the effectiveness of government programs and operations. She read the results of a google search with the projected savings for the City of Toronto from the Auditor General's recommendations over a 5-year period.

M. Heckbert responded to questions from the Committee.

5.7 Melissa Heckbert, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters

M. Heckbert, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion seeking a report on spending at Durham Region Headquarters. M. Heckbert requested that the Region release the files and let taxpayers see them if they choose. She stated that Durham Region has many professionals, and they are a resource who can report back to Councillors if they see anything amiss or have questions.

M. Heckbert concluded by asking the Committee to support full disclosure.

M. Heckbert responded to questions from the Committee.

At the request of Committee, E. Baxter-Trahair and N. Taylor provided an overview of the Region's financial management practices. N. Taylor also outlined the typical value for money audit process.

5.8 Jessica Street, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters

J. Street, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to seek a value for money audit of renovations at Durham Region Headquarters. J. Street advised that she has requested Council reports awarding projects and change order details and she stated that the responses received were incomplete and she received no true answers on change orders. J. Street stated that approvals say what is authorized and audits say what was delivered. She also stated that Durham families deserve proof of value and by distinguishing between wants from needs it creates space to invest in things that matter.

J. Street responded to questions from the Committee.

5.9 Jessica Street, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region

J. Street, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to seek a report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region. J. Street stated that oversight works best when it is independent and only an Auditor General can provide the kind of accountability that reassures taxpayers. J. Street also stated that she has seen how independent audits uncover waste and save money, and that in other jurisdictions the savings have more than covered the cost of the Auditor General's office. J. Street further stated that families are sacrificing while government spending continues to grow and independent oversight is not about mistrust, it is about fairness and shows residents that their sacrifices are matched by responsibility in government.

5.10 Jessica Street, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters

J. Street, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion seeking a report on spending at Durham Region Headquarters. J. Street stated that this motion is about transparency and that residents hear about the renovations but never see the total spent in plain language. She advised that she requested consultant and contractor awards, final costs and change order details and she stated that the answers received were partial, and missing the change order information requested.

J. Street concluded by stating that by passing this motion Council can show residents that Durham Region has nothing to hide, and that accountability is not optional.

J. Street responded to questions from the Committee.

5.11 Jessica Street, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Support the Elect Respect Campaign

J. Street, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to support the Elect Respect Campaign. J. Street stated that respect is not just about civility and is about creating conditions where people feel safe to speak honestly even when they disagree. She also stated that respect means the same rules apply to everyone and respect with fairness builds trust. She added that voter turnout across Durham Region has been falling and when respect and fairness are missing participation in democracy declines.

5.12 Jessica Street, Durham resident
Re: Motion regarding Detailed Accounting of Hannover Messe 2025 Trade Mission

J. Street, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion regarding detailed accounting of Hannover Messe 2025 Trade Mission. J. Street stated that taxpayers deserve to know how money was spent, who attended, what outcomes were achieved and how Durham benefits. She also stated that every dollar spent abroad must be justified.

J. Street responded to questions from the Committee.

At the request of Committee, S. Austin provided an overview of the Hannover Messe 2025 Trade Mission. Staff advised that a report and presentation were provided at the September 2, 2025, Community Growth and Economic Development Committee meeting, and a presentation will be provided at the September 24, 2025, Regional Council meeting.

- 5.13 Jessica Street, Durham resident
Re: Motion regarding Mental Health & Addictions Urgent Care & Emergency Department
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J. Street, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion regarding a mental health and addictions urgent care and emergency department. J. Street stated that addiction is an illness, and it deserves compassion, treatment and recovery focussed solutions. She urged the Committee to focus on pathways to recovery, treatment beds, counselling and medical care. She also stated that harm reduction manages survival, but treatment restores life.

J. Street concluded by stating that if Regional Council moves forward with some of the other motions on the agenda, it will find the savings and efficiencies needed to fund this urgent care model without further burdening taxpayers.

- 5.14 Gary Dunsmuir, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters
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G. Dunsmuir withdrew their request to appear prior to the meeting.

- 5.15 Lisa Robinson, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region
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L. Robinson, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to seek a report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region. L. Robinson advised that she is appearing as a concerned resident and that all opinions are her own and not as a representative of the City of Pickering. She referenced the amount of the Region's budget and the services provided, and she stated with that level of responsibility comes the duty to ensure every dollar is spent wisely and transparently. L. Robinson also referenced other municipalities with an Auditor General, and she stated that these independent offices have uncovered millions of dollars of savings, strengthened procurement practices, and restored public trust. L. Robinson further stated her opinion that an Auditor General could complement the work already done by finance and purchasing staff and their role would be to look across the system, identify risks and recommend improvements.

- 5.16 Lisa Robinson, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Support the Elect Respect Campaign
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L. Robinson, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to support the Elect Respect Campaign. L. Robinson advised that she is appearing as a concerned resident and that all opinions are her own and not as a representative of the City of Pickering. She stated that public service should be grounded in respect, civility and open dialogue, and elected officials across

Canada are facing increasing harassment, intimidation and toxic partnerships that discourage good people from stepping forward. She also stated that supporting the Elect Respect campaign does not mean silencing disagreement, and the campaign calls for respectful engagement between residents, staff and elected officials.

L. Robinson concluded by stating that by endorsing the Elect Respect campaign Durham Region Council sends a clear message that while we may not always agree we will uphold respectful public discourse and treat one another with dignity.

L. Robinson responded to questions from the Committee.

5.17 Lisa Robinson, Durham resident
Re: Motion regarding Mental Health & Addictions Urgent Care & Emergency Department

L. Robinson, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion regarding a mental health and addictions urgent care and emergency department. L. Robinson advised that she is appearing as a concerned resident and that all opinions are her own and not as a representative of the City of Pickering. She stated that mental health and addictions have become a crisis in Durham, and we need urgent care solutions that treat mental health and addictions with the same seriousness as physical illness. L. Robinson also stated that the motion calls for a dedicated urgent care clinic and emergency department for mental health and addictions, and the goal is clear that timely access to treatment reduces the pressure on emergency rooms and better supports individuals and families in crisis. She further stated that she does not believe the solution lies in decriminalizing hard drugs or expanding safe injection sites, and our focus must be on treatment, recovery and dignity.

5.18 Melissa Whitefield, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters

M. Whitefield, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motions to seek a value for money audit of renovations at Durham Region Headquarters; seek a report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region; and seeking a report on spending at Durham Region Headquarters.

M. Whitefield stated that a value for money audit is not just an accounting exercise it is an act of respect for taxpayers. She also stated that Durham Region missed critical opportunities when the Province pushed for rapid housing development incentives, and that on paper it sounded really good, but in reality, Clarington has one of the largest land sprawls in Durham Region and one of the lowest populations. M. Whitefield added that staff should have considered that this mandate did not align with our capacity, infrastructure or financial resources.

M. Whitefield also stated that it is not enough to cut costs, and we must ensure that every dollar spent reflects the needs of the people first. She further stated this means making sure our young people have opportunities here at home, ensuring that seniors have the supports they need to age gracefully with dignity and independence, and providing proper resources for people living with disabilities.

M. Whitefield referenced transparency, and she stated that it is not enough to say we are committed to financial accountability. She also stated that reports are often delayed, communications are murky, and information is not always accessible to residents. She further stated that she strongly supports the push for an independent Auditor General and in other municipalities independent oversight has built trust and saved money. She added that what will rebuild trust is culture, with Councillors and staff being willing to answer questions without defensiveness, acknowledge when mistakes are made and delivering information in plain language in real time.

M. Whitefield responded to questions from the Committee.

- 5.19 Melissa Whitefield, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region
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M. Whitefield spoke to this matter earlier in the meeting. See Item 5.18 on pages 15 and 16 of these minutes.

- 5.20 Melissa Whitefield, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters
-

M. Whitefield spoke to this matter earlier in the meeting. See Item 5.18 on pages 15 and 16 of these minutes.

- 5.21 Jessica Wilkins, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region
-

J. Wilkins spoke to this matter later in the meeting. See Item 5.21 on page 19 of these minutes.

- 5.22 Jessica Wilkins, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters
-

J. Wilkins spoke to this matter later in the meeting. See Item 5.22 on pages 18 and 19 of these minutes.

- 5.23 Jessica Wilkins, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Support the Elect Respect Campaign
-

J. Wilkins spoke to this matter later in the meeting. See Item 5.23 on page 19 of these minutes.

- 5.24 Jessica Wilkins, Durham resident
Re: Motion regarding Mental Health & Addictions Urgent Care & Emergency Department
-

J. Wilkins spoke to this matter later in the meeting. See Item 5.24 on page 19 of these minutes.

- 5.25 Carl Fulda, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters
-

C. Fulda, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to seek a value for money audit of renovations at Durham Region Headquarters. C. Fulda stated that the renovations at Durham Region Headquarters represent a significant investment of public funds and to the public these projects have raised questions. He also stated the public wonders if their money was spent wisely and that a value for money audit is about clarity. He added that an independent audit demonstrates that Durham Region Council takes its oversight role seriously and he urged the Committee to support the motion.

- 5.26 Carl Fulda, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters
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C. Fulda, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion seeking a report on spending at Durham Region Headquarters. C. Fulda stated that Durham residents have seen years of spending on Durham Region Headquarters and for the public it is difficult to track how much has been spent and why. He also stated that a single consolidated report would provide the transparency that residents are entitled to.

At the request of Committee, E. Baxter-Trahair and R. Jagannathan provided an overview of the Workplace Modernization Project at Durham Region Headquarters. It was noted that Report #2025-COW-31 of the Commissioner of Works is included on the agenda for this meeting.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee.

5.27 Carl Fulda, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Support the Elect Respect Campaign

C. Fulda, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to support the Elect Respect Campaign. C. Fulda stated that there is public concern that campaigns like this could be manipulated and that some in positions of power may use the language of respect to frame legitimate dissent as harmful. He also stated that when this happens what is really a difference of opinion can be cast as an attack. C. Fulda further stated that Durham Region Council must ensure this campaign is about mutual respect, not selective enforcement. He added that the law protects the public's right to hold officials accountable and supporting the Elect Respect campaign should mean upholding that right and not narrowing it.

C. Fulda responded to questions from the Committee.

5.28 Janice Strasbourg, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters

J. Strasbourg was not in attendance when called upon to provide a delegation.

5.29 Janice Strasbourg, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region

J. Strasbourg was not in attendance when called upon to provide a delegation.

5.30 Janice Strasbourg, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters

J. Strasbourg was not in attendance when called upon to provide a delegation.

5.22 Jessica Wilkins, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters

J. Wilkins, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motions to seek a value for money audit of renovations at Durham Region Headquarters; seeking a report on spending at Durham Region Headquarters; and regarding detailed accounting of Hannover Messe 2025 Trade Mission.

J. Wilkins stated that property taxes are becoming unaffordable, and residents are very concerned about how their money is being spent. She also stated that a value for money audit is essential, and residents need assurance that renovations at Durham Region Headquarters and trips abroad are done to the highest standard and held to the highest standard of accountability. She further stated that what is needed is clarity, a plain language accounting of what was spent, why it was spent, and who approved it.

J. Wilkins concluded by stating that supporting these motions is about restoring public trust and showing that Durham Region Council takes oversight seriously and is willing to look critically at their own house before asking taxpayers for one more dime. She urged members of Committee to support these motions.

5.21 Jessica Wilkins, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region

J. Wilkins, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion seeking a report on spending at Durham Region Headquarters. J. Wilkins stated that when it comes to public money nothing is more important than trust and right now many residents have lost confidence in how their tax dollars are being managed. She also stated that the perception is spending decisions are being made without sufficient oversight, transparency or accountability. J. Wilkins further stated that an independent Auditor General would provide Durham Region Council and the public with impartial professional oversight over major expenditures and ensure that every dollar spent can withstand scrutiny. She added that other municipalities have an Auditor General, and they have proven to be invaluable in uncovering waste, recommending efficiencies and saving taxpayers money.

5.23 Jessica Wilkins, Durham resident
Re: Motion to Support the Elect Respect Campaign

J. Wilkins, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion to support the Elect Respect Campaign. J. Wilkins stated that public office should be grounded in respect, accountability and service to the people, yet across all levels of government there has been a rise in toxic behaviour. She also stated that supporting the Elect Respect campaign is about setting a standard and ensures Durham Region is committed to creating a political culture where debate is vigorous but never personal, disagreement does not mean disrespect, and residents feel safe and welcome to engage with their representatives. J. Wilkins further stated that respect must be mutual and if we want more people to participate in democracy we need to show that politics in Durham Region can be constructive, professional and respectful.

5.24 Jessica Wilkins, Durham resident
Re: Motion regarding Mental Health & Addictions Urgent Care & Emergency Department

J. Wilkins, Durham resident, appeared in support of the proposed motion regarding a mental health and addictions urgent care and emergency department. J. Wilkins thanked the Committee for passing the motion and she stated that this help is needed in Durham Region, and she thinks this is a great step forward.

Motion #80

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Carter,
That the Committee recess for 10 minutes.

Carried

The Committee recessed at 3:17 PM and reconvened at 3:28 PM

A roll call was conducted following the recess and all members of the Committee were present with the exception of Councillors Ashe, Barton, Collier, Crawford, Jubb, McDougall, Mulcahy and Roy.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1 Correspondence from Greg Milosh, Oshawa resident
Re: Support of the motions seeking a Report on Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters and a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters
-

Motion #81

Moved by Councillor Chapman, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,
That correspondence from Greg Milosh, Oshawa resident, re: Support of the motions seeking a Report on Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters and a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters, be referred to consideration of Item 8.1, Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters, and Item 8.3, Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters.

Carried

- 6.2 Correspondence from Linda Gasser, Whitby resident
Re: Report #2025-COW-31: Update on the Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters Capital Projects, Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters, Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region, and Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters
-

Motion #82

Moved by Councillor Chapman, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,
That correspondence from Linda Gasser, Whitby resident, re: Report #2025-COW-31: Update on the Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters Capital Projects, Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters, Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region, and Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters, be referred to consideration of Report #2025-COW-31 of the Commissioner of Works, Item 8.1, Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters, Item 8.2, Motion to Seek Report on an

Independent Auditor General for Durham Region, and Item 8.3, Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters.

Carried

7. Reports

- 7.1 Authorization to Enter into a Funding and Development Charge Credit Agreement with Brooklin South Landowners Group for the Construction of Zone 3 Feedermain on Conlin Road from Anderson Street to Thickson Road, Anderson Street from Conlin Road to Mid-Block Arterial and on Mid-Block Arterial from Anderson Street to Garden Street, in the Town of Whitby
[\(2025-COW-30\)](#)
-

Report #2025-COW-30 from R. Jagannathan, Commissioner of Works, and N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance, was received.

Motion #83

Moved by Councillor Marimpietri, Seconded by Councillor Woo,
That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the Regional Municipality of Durham be authorized to enter into a Funding and Development Charge Credit Agreement with Brooklin South Landowners Group for the construction of a Zone 3 feedermain (the "Works") with the following terms:
- i) Brooklin South Landowners Group will finance upfront 100 per cent of the design and construction costs of the Works estimated at \$10,384,900;
 - ii) Brooklin South Landowners Group will tender, award, and construct the necessary Works, subject to terms and conditions to ensure competitive pricing, along with Regional inspection and approval of all contract change orders which, in aggregate, exceed 10 per cent of the tendered cost;
 - iii) Brooklin South Landowners Group will post security in the form of a letter of credit or surety bond, satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance, in the amount of 100 per cent of the estimated value of the design and construction costs of the Works;
 - iv) Brooklin South Landowners Group will receive residential water supply development charge credits up to an amount equal to the residential share (92.6 per cent) of the design and construction costs of the water supply Works, estimated at \$9,616,400 (at the rates in effect at the time of development), for lands within the Zone 3 area that are serviced by the Works;

- v) Development charge credits earned will be indexed in accordance with Statistics Canada's Building Construction Price Index (the prescribed series used to index the Regional Development Charge Rates);
- vi) The Region will pay to Brooklin South Landowners Group the industrial share (3.8 per cent), the commercial share (2.9 per cent), and the institutional share (0.7 per cent) of the design and construction costs of the Works, estimated at \$768,500, upon acceptance by the Region of the completion of the works from the Water Supply Budget:

2025 Water Supply Budget

Zone 3 feedermain on Mid-Block Arterial and Anderson St. from west of Lynde Creek to Conlin Rd., Whitby (Project ID: D2202)

Commercial Development Charge Reserve Fund	\$301,200
2025 Water User Revenue ¹	<u>\$467,300</u>
Total	<u>\$768,500</u>

Note:

1. \$467,300 in water user revenue related to the shortfall in industrial and institutional development charges

- vii) The Region will pay 15 per cent of the costs of the construction of the Works to address engineering and other soft costs incurred by Brooklin South Landowners Group, included in the estimated cost of the works;
- viii) All financial commitments will be based on actual costs;
- ix) Such other terms as deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of Works; and

B) That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to execute the above-noted Agreement in a form satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor.

Carried

7.2 Update on the Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters Capital Projects ([2025-COW-31](#))

Report #2025-COW-31 from R. Jagannathan, Commissioner of Works, was received.

Motion #84

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
That Report #2025-COW-31 of the Commissioner of Works be received
for information.

Carried

- 7.3 Tender Award and Additional Financing for Regional Municipality of Durham Contract #D2025-47 for Reconstruction of Bowmanville Avenue (Regional Road 57) from Highway 401 to King Street West (Regional Highway 2) in the Municipality of Clarington
([2025-COW-32](#))

Report #2025-COW-32 from R. Jagannathan, Commissioner of Works, was received.

Motion #85

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Woo,
That we recommend to Council

- A) That the lowest compliant bid of Kapp Infrastructure Inc., in the amount of \$44,378,332, be awarded for Regional Municipality of Durham Contract #D2025-47 Reconstruction of Bowmanville Avenue (Regional Road 57) from Highway 401 to King Street West (Regional Highway 2) in the Municipality of Clarington, resulting in a total project cost of \$57,942,518;
- B) That the previously approved project budget of \$52,039,723 for Regional Municipality of Durham Contract #D2025-47 be increased by \$5,902,795 to a revised total project budget of \$57,942,518;
- C) That the additional financing of \$5,902,795 be provided from the following sources:

	Residential DC	Commercial DC	Institutional DCs	Industrial DCs	Road Capital Reserve	User Revenue	Other Financing	Total
Project Description	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Roads Fund 20000								
Reg. Rd. 57 - Baseline to Hwy 2 (Project R1721)	17,227,294	2,507,781	1,269,317	1,882,248	4,598,360	-	-	27,485,000
Ontario Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program - HECS Stream Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000,000	20,000,000

	Residential DC	Commercial DC	Institutional DCs	Industrial DCs	Road Capital Reserve	User Revenue	Other Financing	Total
Project Description	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Municipality of Clarington Cost Share	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,334,329	2,334,329
Total Approved Roads Financing	17,227,294	2,507,781	1,269,317	1,882,248	4,598,360	-	22,334,329	49,819,329
Proposed Roads Fund 20000 Reallocations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brock St. - Rossland to Taunton (Project R0419)	1,570,827	231,004	-	-	853,387	-	-	2,655,218
Harmony Rd. - Rossland to Taunton (Project R0716)	867,002	136,207	-	195,667	175,983 ¹	-	-	1,374,860
Contingencies - Development Related (Project M1830)	585,740	86,138	-	-	253,207 ¹	-	-	925,085
Brock Rd/7th Concession Intersection (Project R1902)	307,673	35,163	-	26,372	-	-	-	369,207
King St & Lambs Rd Intersection (Project R1922)	308,664	35,276	-	52,914	-	-	-	396,854
Reg. Rd. 3/Enfield Intersection (Project R2202)	110,605	20,675	-	-	-	-	-	131,281
Contingencies - Development Related (Project M2130)	-	13,045	-	37,245	-	-	-	50,290
Total Reallocations	3,750,511	557,508	-	312,198	1,282,578	-	-	5,902,795
Revised Total Roads Financing (Project R1721)	20,977,805	3,065,289	1,269,317	2,194,446	5,880,938	0	22,334,329	55,722,124
Water Supply Fund 21000								
Reg. Rd. 57 - Baseline to Hwy 2 (Project R1721)	-	-	-	-	-	1,060,000	-	1,060,000

	Residential DC	Commercial DC	Institutional DCs	Industrial DCs	Road Capital Reserve	User Revenue	Other Financing	Total
Project Description	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Zone 1 Feedermain on Baseline Rd from Bowmanville Ave. to Liberty St. (Project D1807)	66,004	2,048	-	1,425	-	5,524	-	75,000
Total Approved Water Supply Financing	66,004	2,048	-	1,425	-	1,065,524	-	1,135,000
Sanitary Sewer Fund 22000								
Reg. Rd. 57 - Baseline to Hwy 2 (Project R1721)	801,021	49,928	-	-	-	234,445	-	1,085,394
Total Approved Sanitary Sewer Financing	801,021	49,928	-	-	-	234,445	-	1,085,394
Total Approved Project Costs (R1721/D1807)	18,094,319	2,559,757	1,269,317	1,883,673	4,598,360	1,299,969	22,334,329	52,039,723
Total Revised Project Total	21,844,829	3,117,265	1,269,317	2,195,871	5,880,938	1,299,969	22,334,329	57,942,518

¹ Shortfalls of \$354,778 in Institutional Development Charges and \$93,262 in Industrial Development Charges to be financed by surplus in Road Capital Reserve in the above projects.

- D) That a copy of Report #2025-COW-32 of the Commissioner of Works be submitted to the Ministry of Infrastructure in compliance with the Housing-Enabled Core Services Transfer Payment Agreement, which requires a resolution or by-law recognizing the tender award.

Carried

8. Members Motions

- 8.1 Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at Durham Region Headquarters

Discussion ensued with respect to the proposed motion; referring the motion to the September 24, 2025, Regional Council meeting; and the possibility of referring the motion to the Finance & Administration Committee for a review prior to a value for money audit.

Staff responded to questions regarding the Durham Region Headquarters main entrance modifications and Workplace Modernization Project; the estimated cost of a value for money audit; the qualifications of Regional staff; and different types of audits.

Regional staff agreed to provide a breakdown of expenditures related to the main (west) entrance modification project for the September 24, 2025, Regional Council meeting.

Motion #86

Moved by Councillor Leahy, Seconded by Councillor Yamada,
That we recommend to Council:

Whereas concerns by residents of Durham Region have been widely reported in the news media regarding the costs associated with the procurement and installation of the revolving door and side door system; and

Whereas the door replacement project is part of a larger renewal and renovation of the Durham Region Headquarters; and

Whereas Durham Region staff have committed to providing a full accounting of budgeted and actual expenditures for the renovations of the Durham Region Headquarters; and

Whereas Durham Regional Council is committed to financial transparency and good governance; and

Whereas it is common practice to audit projects on a value for money basis known as Value for Money Audit; and

Whereas a Value for Money Audit assesses an organization's activities to determine if its resources are used in an economical, efficient, and effective manner to achieve its objectives; and

Whereas a performance-focused audit goes beyond traditional financial compliance, evaluating how well resources are acquired, protected, and utilized to deliver goods and services, ensuring taxpayers and stakeholders receive the best possible return on investment; and

Whereas the Value for Money Audit provides recommendations for improvement and promotes accountability;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Regional Council direct the CAO to engage the services of an Independent Auditor to provide a Value for Money Audit of the Durham Regional Headquarters renewal project.

**Referred to the Regional Council meeting of September 24, 2025, later in the meeting
(See Following Motion)**

Motion #87

Moved by Councillor Nicholson, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,
That Item 8.1, Motion to Seek a Value for Money Audit of Renovations at
Durham Region Headquarters, be referred to the Regional Council
meeting of September 24, 2025.

Carried on the following Recorded Vote:

Yes: Councillor Anderson
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Carter
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Cook
Councillor Jubb
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Marimpietri
Councillor Neal
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Woo
Councillor Wotten
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry

No: Councillor Ashe
Councillor Dies
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Lee
Councillor McDougall
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Shahid

Members

Absent: Councillor Barton
Councillor Collier
Councillor Crawford
Councillor Foster
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Roy

Declaration

of Interest: None

8.2 Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General for Durham Region

Discussion ensued with respect to the City of Oshawa's experience with an Auditor General's Office; amending the motion to delete Part 1.; referring the motion to the Finance & Administration Committee; and the anticipated timing for consideration by the Finance & Administration Committee.

Staff responded to questions with respect to next steps if the motion was adopted; and their position with respect to establishing an Auditor General's office.

It was requested that staff follow-up with the Region of Peel to obtain a copy of any reports they prepared related to establishing an Office of the Auditor General.

Motion #88

Moved by Councillor Leahy, Seconded by Councillor Yamada,
That we recommend to Council:

Whereas Durham Regional Council is committed to financial transparency and good governance; and

Whereas municipalities are held accountable for public funds through various auditing mechanisms; and

Whereas the position of Auditor General is a role adopted by larger municipalities like Toronto, Ottawa, and recently established in Peel Region; and

Whereas The Office of the Auditor General provides independent oversight to municipal councils, conducting performance, financial, and compliance audits to ensure value for money, identify inefficiencies, and maintain accountability for stewardship; and

Whereas some Auditor General's offices also operate a confidential fraud and waste hotline to strengthen oversight and identify opportunities for efficiency and value for money in municipal operations;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Regional Council:

1. adopt in principle the idea of establishing the office of an independent office of the Auditor General for the Durham Region; and
2. direct the CAO to report on the pros and cons of engaging the services of an independent Auditor General to provide annual reports directly to Council.

**Referred to the Finance & Administration Committee later in the meeting
(See Following Motion)**

Motion #89

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
That Motion #88 of Councillors Leahy and Councillor Yamada be
amended by deleting Part 1.

Motion Defeated on the following Recorded Vote:

Yes: Councillor Anderson
Councillor Ashe
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Cook
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Lee
Councillor Marimpietri
Councillor McDougall
Councillor Pickles

No: Councillor Carter
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Dies
Councillor Jubb
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Neal
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo
Councillor Wotten
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry

Members

Absent: Councillor Barton
Councillor Collier
Councillor Crawford
Councillor Foster
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Roy

Declaration
of Interest: None

Motion #90

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,
That Item 8.2, Motion to Seek Report on an Independent Auditor General
for Durham Region be referred to the Finance & Administration
Committee.

Carried on the following Recorded Vote:

Yes: Councillor Ashe
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Cook
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Lee
Councillor Marimpietri
Councillor McDougall
Councillor Neal
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Wotten

No: Councillor Carter
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Dies
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Jubb
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry

Members

Absent: Councillor Anderson
Councillor Barton
Councillor Collier
Councillor Crawford
Councillor Foster
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Roy
Councillor Woo

Declaration
of Interest: None

8.3 Motion to Seek a Report on Spending at Durham Region Headquarters

Discussion ensued with respect to the proposed motion; the information provided in Report #2025-COW-31 of the Commissioner of Works; and the rationale for renovations at Durham Region Headquarters.

Staff clarified the total cost of expenditures related to the main (west) entrance modification project. Staff also responded to questions with respect to the additional information requested as part of this motion.

Motion #91

Moved by Councillor Leahy, Seconded by Councillor Yamada,
That we recommend to Council:

Whereas concerns by residents of Durham Region have been widely reported in the news media regarding the costs associated with the procurement of the revolving door system; and

Whereas the door replacement project is part of a larger renewal and renovation of the Durham Region Headquarters; and

Whereas Durham Region staff have committed to providing a full accounting of budget and actual expenditures for the renovations of the Durham Region Headquarters; and

Whereas Durham Regional Council is committed to financial transparency and good governance;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Regional Council direct the CAO to provide a detailed accounting of the amounts budgeted and actual spending on the Headquarters renewal project to the next meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee.

Motion Defeated on the following Recorded Vote:

Yes: Councillor Anderson
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Neal
Councillor Yamada

No: Councillor Ashe
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Carter
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Cook
Councillor Dies
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Jubb
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Lee
Councillor Marimpietri
Councillor McDougall
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry

Members

Absent: Councillor Barton
Councillor Collier
Councillor Crawford
Councillor Foster
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Roy

Declaration
of Interest: None

8.4 Motion to Support the Elect Respect Campaign

Discussion ensued with respect to referring the motion to Regional staff to amend the wording to reflect the motion passed by the Ontario Big City Mayors Caucus and the resolution on the Elect Respect website.

Motion #92

Moved by Councillor Leahy, Seconded by Councillor Yamada,
That we recommend to Council:

Whereas democracy is strengthened when all individuals can participate fully, safely, and without discrimination, contributing to the well-being of their community;

And Whereas democratic discourse and respectful debate are under pressure across all levels of government, including municipal councils in Ontario;

And Whereas elected officials increasingly face threats, intimidation, and harassment, which undermine not only personal safety but also public confidence in democratic institutions;

And Whereas social media platforms have amplified both legitimate criticism and, at times, abusive or threatening conduct, with disproportionate effects on women, racialized persons, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ+ persons, and persons with disabilities, discouraging them from seeking office;

And Whereas freedom of expression is a cornerstone of democracy, and must be safeguarded alongside efforts to combat unlawful harassment, discrimination, and violence;

And Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified troubling trends of declining voter turnout and fewer candidates entering public life;

And Whereas initiatives such as H.E.R. Halton's Elect Respect campaign and the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians' Parliamentary Civility Pledge demonstrate a growing movement to foster safe, inclusive, and respectful environments for elected representatives;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Durham Regional Council supports the principles of the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

1. Uphold freedom of expression while rejecting unlawful harassment, threats, discrimination, and personal abuse;
2. Treat all persons with dignity and respect in public, private, and online spaces;
3. Focus debate on policies and ideas, not personal attacks;
4. Build a culture of safety and inclusion where people of all backgrounds feel empowered to run for and hold office;
5. Call on relevant authorities to investigate and respond to threats or harassment targeting elected officials, consistent with the law; and
6. Model integrity and accountability by holding one another to clear, transparent, and legally grounded standards of conduct; and

That Durham Regional Council encourages elected officials, organizations, and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at www.electrespect.ca; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, relevant MPs and MPPs, Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

**Referred to Regional staff later in the meeting
(See Following Motion)**

Motion #93

Moved by Councillor Chapman, Seconded by Councillor Carter,

That Item 8.4, Motion to Support the Elect Respect Campaign, be referred to Regional staff to amend the wording to reflect the Elect Respect Campaign pledge.

Carried on the following Recorded Vote:

Yes: Councillor Anderson
 Councillor Ashe
 Councillor Brenner
 Councillor Carter
 Councillor Chapman

Councillor Cook
Councillor Dies
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Jubb
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Lee
Councillor Marimpietri
Councillor McDougall
Councillor Neal
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry

No: Councillor Leahy

Members

Absent: Councillor Barton
Councillor Collier
Councillor Crawford
Councillor Foster
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Roy
Councillor Wotten

Declaration
of Interest: None

8.5 Motion regarding Detailed Accounting of Hannover Messe 2025 Trade Mission

Discussion ensued with respect to the Hannover Messe 2025 Trade Mission budget; referring the motion to the September 24, 2025, Regional Council meeting; and the work being done to advance Durham Region.

Staff responded to questions with respect to the policy for expense claims and reimbursement; the flight arrangements for Council members; whether Council member expenses are captured on the annual statement of remuneration and expenses; the criteria for Council member attendance; how expenses were captured for Council members attending on behalf of their local municipality; what happens to the budget surplus; and the presentation to be provided at the September 24, 2025, Regional Council meeting.

Motion #94

Moved by Councillor Yamada, Seconded by Councillor Nicholson,
That we recommend to Council:

Whereas the creation of economic opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds, identities, abilities, lifestyles and life stages; that aims to create an inclusive prosperous future for everyone is an important aspect of our economic development department in Durham Region; and

Whereas staff report 2025-EDT-13 outlines the Hannover Messe 2025 final outcomes, metrics and budget; and

Whereas the Hannover Messe 2025 Trade Fair had an approved budget of \$590,000; and

Whereas the final budget for the Hannover Messe 2025 Trade Fair came in at \$414,000 and did not include the \$93,000 from cost sharing with partners; and

Whereas taxpayers continue to look for greater accountability and transparency in they way governments spend money;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that Economic Development staff provide a detailed line by line accounting of the \$414,000 spent on the 2025 Hannover Messe trade mission.

**Referred to Regional Council meeting of September 24, 2025, later in the meeting
(See Following Motion)**

Motion #95

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,
That Item 8.5, Motion regarding Detailed Accounting of Hannover Messe 2025 Trade Mission, be referred to the Regional Council meeting of September 24, 2025.

Carried on the following Recorded Vote:

Yes: Councillor Anderson
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Cook
Councillor Dies
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Marimpietri
Councillor McDougall
Councillor Neal
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo
Regional Chair Henry

No: Councillor Ashe
Councillor Carter
Councillor Chapman

Councillor Garrod
Councillor Jubb
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Yamada

Members

Absent: Councillor Barton
Councillor Collier
Councillor Crawford
Councillor Foster
Councillor Lee
Councillor Roy
Councillor Wotten

Declaration
of Interest: None

8.6 Motion regarding Mental Health & Addictions Urgent Care & Emergency
Department

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See pages 6 to 8 of these minutes.

9. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. Adjournment

Motion #96

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,
That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John Henry
Regional Chair

T. Fraser
Committee Clerk