

Policy Development and Strategic Direction Committee Report

The Policy Development and Strategic Direction Committee makes the following recommendations from its meeting on May 11, 2021:

1. That the County of Brant supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's resolution regarding options for enforcing compliance with Municipal Codes of Conduct amongst Council Members;

That this support be communicated to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to inform the Province of Ontario's consultation on Strengthening Accountability for Municipal Council Members;

And that members of the public be encouraged to inform the Province's consultation through participation in the survey, available through the Province of Ontario's website.

2. That the County of Brant adopt the following amendments to the County of Brant Code of Conduct for Members of Council:
 1. New Section 5.17 "*Members of Council who are also Members of local board or municipal corporations owned in whole or in part by the County of Brant must be alert to the possibility of conflicts of interest between their roles and when in doubt about a potential conflict should seek the advice of the Integrity Commissioner*".
 2. Addition to Section 8.1 to read "*No Member shall accept a fee, advance, gift or personal benefit that is connected directly or indirectly with the performance of his or her duties of office, unless permitted by one or more of the exceptions listed in Section 8.3. **The acceptance of a gift, benefit or hospitality can imply favouritism, influence or bias on the part of the Member***".
 3. Addition to Section 9.1 to read "*No Member shall disclose or release or publish by any means to any member of the public, or in any way divulge any confidential information, including personal information or any aspect of deliberations acquired by virtue of their Office, in either oral or written form, except when required by law or authorized by Council resolution to do so. **This section applies to Members during their term of office and afterwards for as long as the information remains confidential by law***".
 4. New Section 31.1 to read "*The Integrity Commissioner is appointed by Council and reports to Council as a whole with the administrative support of the Clerk*".
 5. New Section 31.2 to read "*The Integrity Commissioner may only be removed from office, before the end of the term of their contract, by a special 2/3 majority of Council*".
 6. New Section 16.1 to read "*No Member shall seek employment with the County of Brant for a period of at least two (2) years following the end of their term*".

That amendments to the County of Brant Code of Conduct by-law be presented for Council's consideration;

That staff be directed to coordinate with the Integrity Commissioner regarding any content to be incorporated on the County of Brant website;

And that suggestions from the Integrity Commissioner not addressed through these recommendations be referred for further analysis and a subsequent report.

3. That the County of Brant undertake a competitive bid process for the procurement of Integrity Commissioner Services to administer the County of Brant Code of Conduct for Members of Council;

That Council appoint a three (3) member Working Group to review bids and make a recommendation to Council regarding the appointment of an Integrity Commissioner;

And that Mayor Bailey, Councillor Laferriere and Councillor Gatward be appointed to the Working Group to Review Bids for the appointment of an Integrity Commissioner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Councillor MacAlpine, Chair