



# REPORT

## Council

**Meeting Date: August 15, 2023**

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**FROM:** Strategy, Policy and Communications Department

**DATE:** August 1, 2023

**SUBJECT:** 2023 Priority Intergovernmental Requests

**LOCATION:** Town Hall

**WARD:** Town-wide

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the 2023 priority intergovernmental requests identified in Appendix A of the report dated August 1, 2023 from the Strategy, Policy and Communications department be approved.

### **KEY FACTS:**

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- In 2022, Council approved a list of priority intergovernmental requests, as part of an effort to focus and align requests to other levels of government with the town's vision, growth targets, and needs.
- Since 2022, staff has continued to provide briefing materials to accompany the priority requests, to support Members of Council in advocacy discussions with other levels of governments, including at intergovernmental forums, networks, and associations.
- In light of Council's new long-term strategy, as well as changes in the landscape, such as shifting community needs, emerging issues, completed requests, and ongoing long-term planning in departments, staff has reviewed and updated a new list of priority intergovernmental requests that is provided in Appendix A.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **2022 Priority Intergovernmental Requests**

In 2022, as part of efforts to effectively pursue the town's vision, a more systematic approach to focus and align the town's intergovernmental requests to the town's priorities was taken.

To address this need, on March 28, 2022, Council approved a list of priority intergovernmental requests as identified in the [appendix](#) to the accompanying [staff report](#).

Over the past year, there has been ongoing advocacy and engagement with representatives and staff from other levels of government to advance the town's positions on the requests, including at forums such as the 2023 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Trade Show, and the 2022 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual General Meeting and Conference. Town staff continues to support these engagement opportunities, by developing and refining supporting briefing notes which can be accessed through the Council portal.

In light of movement on several of the priority requests, Council's new long-term strategy, and changes to the broader landscape, this report provides an update of the town's current requests to other levels of governments.

### **Council's New Long-term Strategy**

On July 11, 2023, Council approved its new [long-term strategy](#) through the Town of Oakville Council Strategic Plan and 2023–2026 Action Plan that will help guide Council's decision-making and priority-setting over the next four years.

With a new vision—to be a vibrant and livable community for all—Council's long-term strategy reflects the community's desire for an active, beautiful, and full-of-life community where people of all ages and abilities have a place to call home.

In addition, with a new mission—serving the community in a responsible, inclusive way, dedicated to building environmental, social, and economic sustainability—reviewing and updating the town's priority intergovernmental requests is both timely and important.

The four strategic priority areas in Council's long-term strategy are as follows:

- *Growth Management*: Managing growth for a vibrant local economy, meeting infrastructure needs and ensuring we have complete communities and efficient mobility across the town.
- *Community Belonging*: Enhancing community belonging to ensure all residents are invited to engage in a fulfilling community life that is built to support wellbeing.
- *Accountable Government*: Providing accountable government for excellence in service delivery and responsible management of resources.
- *Environmental Sustainability*: Ensuring environmental sustainability to meet future needs related to greenspaces and natural areas, and act on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**COMMENT/OPTIONS:**

Based on consultation with the town's Executive Leadership Team (ELT), an updated list of priority intergovernmental requests is included in *Appendix A – Priority Intergovernmental Requests by Area of Strategic Priority*.

Staff has reviewed and updated the list of requests in Appendix A, in response to changes to the internal and external landscape such as: shifting community needs, emerging issues, completed requests, policy changes, and ongoing long-term planning in departments and commissions at the town. Some of the notable changes include:

- Changes to the request related to the Bronte Harbour acquisition, in recognition of the province releasing its reversionary interest in the land in December 2022.
- Changes to the request related to parkland to convey key provincial lands, including the Parkway lands and provincial lands within the Greenbelt.
- Addition of a new request on towing related to regulations for companies towing from private property and ensuring consumer protection and public safety.
- Addition of a new request to ensure municipalities are made whole from any financial shortfall experienced by municipalities for growth-related infrastructure projects due to Bill 23.
- Addition of a new request related to the display and distribution of objectionable images.
- Removal of the previous request on the Burloak Drive Grade Separation, in light of the [revised cost-sharing agreement](#) with Metrolinx and municipal partners.
- Removal of the previous request on housing affordability, in light of the town's [Housing Strategy and Action Plan including the Housing Accelerator Fund Application](#).
- Removal of the previous Ontario Land Tribunal request that was deemed not necessary at this time.

This list provides the basis for intergovernmental relations to focus efforts over the coming year. These priority intergovernmental requests align with the town's strategic priorities and represent a focused, proactive approach to achieving the town's vision of a vibrant and livable community for all.

As done previously, the list will be subject to review and update on an ongoing basis, in recognition of changes that may occur.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

**(A) PUBLIC**

Council's long-term strategy and action plan, from which the updated list of priority intergovernmental requests was developed, followed considerable public engagement and consultation including surveys, open houses, and stakeholder interviews, as well as the 2022 Citizen Survey.

**(B) FINANCIAL**

Advancing the priority intergovernmental requests outlined in this report may have impacts on financial decision-making, including considerations related to long-range financial forecasts, the annual budgeting process, and the 10-year capital budgeting process.

**(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS**

The priority intergovernmental requests may influence every department across the organization. Departmental work plans and budgets will reflect strategic directions established by Council, including those that lead to the identification of activities requiring enhanced priority intergovernmental requests, with results to be reported through annual departmental business plans and the budgeting process.

**(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS**

This report addresses the following strategic priorities in Council's long-term strategy, including Growth Management, Accountable Government, and Environmental Sustainability.

**(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION**

The priority intergovernmental requests collectively address a number of initiatives that will help the Town and community adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, including advancements related to parkland, electric buses, green development standards, rainwater management, and the effective management of conservation areas.

**APPENDICES:**

Appendix A – Priority Intergovernmental Requests by Strategic Priority

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