



Subject: Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee Renewal

To: Council

From: Corporate Services Department

Report Number: 2021-304

Meeting Date: November 22, 2021

Recommendation:

That Corporate Services Department Report 2021-304 be received;

That Council approve the Proposal to Coordinate AODA Compliance for 2022-2024, attached as Appendix A to Corporate Services Department Report 2021-304; and

That the Manager of Human Resources be directed to renew the City's membership in the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee as needed until otherwise directed by Council.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the City continue as a member of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Background:

On June 28, 2021, Council approved the City of Port Colborne joining the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and delegated the Manager of Human Resources to select two City appointees to sit as members on the Committee for 2021-2022.

The Manager of Human Resources contacted all members of the City of Port Colborne Accessibility Advisory Committee and asked them to submit an expression of interest outlining their qualifications for the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee. The Manager of Human Resources selected Laura Slade and Andrea Mamo as the City of Port Colborne representatives on the Joint Committee.

Discussion:

Staff are committed to promoting accessibility standards throughout the City through avenues including access to information such as accessible documents and an accessible website, evaluation of built environment, site plan review, provincial reporting, and accessible customer service. While multiple staff work on these goals, there is no dedicated staff position to ensure compliance and provide expertise.

Over the past several years, multiple employees have been given the task of ensuring compliance. These staff members have shown interest in promoting accessibility and have worked with the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee to help the City remove barriers. While the City has moved in a positive direction it is important that the necessary resources be provided to continue this positive direction.

Staff believe that in joining this multi-municipal committee the City will have access to expertise that isn't otherwise available within the City workforce. In addition, the City will have an opportunity to work with other municipalities and benefit from knowledge sharing. The Proposal to Coordinate AODA Compliance for 2022-2024 is attached to this report as Appendix A.

The Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee is comprised of members from each member municipality, a staff member, and an accessibility expert. The Committee will help the City with interpretation of legislation, accessibility audits on buildings, documents, processes, reporting, site plan reviews, training, and accessibility awards.

Financial Implications:

The financial input into the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee is approximately \$10,000 annually. This amount is funded through an allocation model charged across all departments on the benefit expense line of the budget.

The partnership with this Committee is fiscally responsible as expertise will be provided to the City without the need to fund a full-time staff member.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Service and Simplicity - Quality and Innovative Delivery of Customer Services
- Value: Financial Management to Achieve Financial Sustainability
- People: Supporting and Investing in Human Capital
- Governance: Communications, Engagement, and Decision-Making

Conclusion:

Staff are confident that continuing to work with the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee will ensure the City meets AODA compliance and will help the City move forward in creating barrier free access for everyone.

Appendices:

- a. Proposal to Coordinate AODA Compliance for 2022-2024

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Murray, MIR, CHRL
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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.