



Title: Accountability and Transparency Policy	
Policy #: G-ACC-1	
Approved by: Regional Council	Page #: 1 (of 2)
Issued: December 12, 2007	Revised:
Responsibility: Corporate Services-Legislative Services	Section: General

1. Policy Statement

- 1.01 The Corporation of the Regional Municipality of Durham provides services and representation to the residents of the Region of Durham in cooperation with the local area municipalities. The fundamental objective of this policy is to ensure that the Council provides the governance and administration necessary to fulfill its obligations to the residents of the Region of Durham in a manner which is accountable and transparent.
- 1.02 Transparency requires that any interested residents may access information about the Council's governance, administration and decision-making processes in a manner which is reasonably convenient and accessible.
- 1.03 Accountability requires that decision making at all levels within the Council is carried out in accordance with the by-laws and applicable legislation and that significant decisions affecting the residents of the Region of Durham are made by democratically responsive bodies duly authorized by the Council to carry out those responsibilities. Further, that the Council at all levels of governance remains open and accessible to the public throughout the decision making process.

2. Purpose

- 2.01 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the governance of the Council is accessible to the residents of the Region of Durham and remains responsive to the needs of the community.

3. Policy Requirements

- 3.01 The Council will provide reasonable notice of its activities in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Act 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended and the by-laws of the Region of Durham.
- 3.02 The Council will comply with the requirements of the Municipal Act as they relate to the conduct of meetings of Council, Committees and local boards.
- 3.03 The Council will, as much as is reasonably possible, carry out all meetings of Council, Committees, local boards and other Regional operations in open session with full public access available.
- 3.04 The Council will comply with the requirements of the Municipal Act with respect to meetings or portions of meetings in closed session and where a meeting is held in closed session the reasons for the closed session will be expressly stated.

- 3.05 The Council will comply with the requirements of the Municipal Act with respect to minutes from meetings. Further, where it is reasonably possible, the Council will make a record of meetings held and will make the minutes of those meetings available to residents in a manner which is reasonably convenient and accessible.
- 3.06 The Council will, as much as is reasonably possible, conduct meetings of Council and Committees at the Regional Headquarters in facilities that are accessible and open to the public.
- 3.07 The Council will ensure that the committees and other boards reporting to the Council shall remain accountable and will carry out their governance activities in a manner which conforms with the by-laws and with the requirements of this policy.

4. References

Corporate Services–Regional Council Policy Manual.

5. Inquiries

For additional information regarding this policy please contact the Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services.