



Durham Budget

2025

2025 Property Tax Guideline

Special Committee of the Whole – September 12, 2024

2025 Proposed Property Tax Guideline



Regional Departments and Agencies*
5.96% increase over the 2024 approved budget

Durham Regional Police Services Board
9.25% increase over the 2024 approved budget

Conservation Authorities
2.5% increase over the 2024 approved budget plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments

Equivalent to a **2.6 per cent increase** in the total residential property tax bill.
Approximately **\$163 annual increase** for an average residential property owner in Durham Region

Establishes an **overall property tax cap** for the 2025 property tax supported business plans and budget.
Ensures **alignment** with Council’s final tax levy expectations and service level implications.
Incorporates the **sustainable use of reserves and reserve funds** for capital investments and one-time operating costs.

* Includes Durham Region Transit, 9-1-1 Emergency Service System, Durham OneNet Inc., and Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation.



Base Pressures

- Annualization of 2024 budget decisions and adjustments for one-time items included in 2024 budget
- Inflationary pressures and significant capital cost escalations
- Staff and service contract cost increases
- Debt servicing costs for debt approved in 2024



Investment in Critical Front-Line Core Service Areas

- Paramedic Services' 10-Year Service and Financing Strategy
- Durham Region Transit's 10-Year Service and Financing Strategy
- Housing and Homelessness Support programs



2025 Strategic Investment Pressures

- Durham Regional Police Budget priorities
- Investments to advance the implementation of the Region's Strategic Plan
- Implementation of the Region's Corporate Climate Action Plan



Provincial / Federal Funding Impacts

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Public Health | • Homelessness Supports |
| • Paramedic Services | • Long-term Care |
| • Social Assistance | • Police |
| • Child Care | |

Paramedic
Services

Regional
Transit

Housing and
Homelessness

Strategic
Investments

Police
Services



Overview

Informed by the 2023 – 2032 Region of Durham Paramedic Services' (RDPS) Service and Financing Strategy approved by Regional Council in February 2023 ([Report #2023-COW-7](#)).



Key Priorities

Aligned with the 10-year strategy, the 2025 key priorities for Paramedic Services include:

- 14 new paramedics (7 advanced care paramedics and 7 primary care paramedics) to provide 36 additional hours of paramedic services daily;
- New full-time management and support staff positions to support growth in 9-1-1 emergency response services; and
- Capital investments to advance new paramedic response stations.



2025 Budget Forecast

- 2025 proposed guideline projects an overall 0.49 per cent increase in the total property tax levy for Paramedic Services. This represents a projected \$4.407 million increase (11.27 per cent) over the 2024 Paramedic Services budget.
- Ongoing increases in provincial government funding are required to fund the 10-year investment plan.

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Overview

Informed by the Durham Region Transit's Service and Financing Strategy (2023 – 2032) ([Report #2023-F-5](#)) approved by Regional Council in February 2023.



Key Priorities

The 10-year implementation strategy looks to advance the following key priorities:

- Service enhancements and growth;
- Fleet transition to zero greenhouse gas emission vehicles;
- Passenger amenities and infrastructure; and
- Fare modernization.



2025 Budget Forecast

- 2025 proposed guideline projects an overall 1.75 per cent increase in the total property tax levy for Durham Region Transit. This represents a projected \$15.741 million increase (16.7 per cent) over the 2024 Durham Region Transit budget.
- Significant increases in senior government funding for transit will be required to fund the 10-year investment plan.

Paramedic Services

Regional Transit

Housing and Homelessness

Strategic Investments

Police Services



Overview

The Region's investment in housing and homelessness support programs has **increased by \$21.84 million (37.1 percent)** since 2022.



Key 2025 Priorities

- Critical investments for homelessness support and shelter programs with a focus on incremental investments in the Region's rent supplement program to support resident transition from Beaverton Supportive Housing, the Microhomes and 1635 Dundas to more permanent housing.
- With funding support from the provincial and federal governments, the Region is looking to advance the redevelopment of:
 - Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation sites at Malaga Road and Christine Crescent;
 - 300 Ritson Road South; and
 - Phase 2 of 1635 Dundas Street East.



Senior Government Funding

- Significant funding contributions from the federal and provincial governments are required to advance the Region's planned investments in housing and homelessness supports.

Significant Investments in Critical Service Areas



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- Advancing the Region's **Cyber Risk Management Program**.
- Advancing a number of initiatives to support the Region's **Corporate Climate Action Plan** and **Community Energy Plan**.
- Investing a projected additional \$3 million in property tax funding in 2025 towards **road and bridge rehabilitation projects**.
- **Modernizing and streamlining customer service delivery** through continued implementation of Service Durham.
- Finalizing and implementing the Region's new **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy**.
- Investing in public health to further support initiatives that **address health inequities** across the Region.
- Ongoing implementation of the **Region's Equity Audit** action items, the **Region's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan**, the recommendations from the 2024 **organizational assessment of the Works Department**, the **Region's Cycling Plan**, and the **Family Physician Attraction and Retention Program**.
- Implementing an **Administrative Penalty System** for automatic speed enforcement and red light camera offences.
- Phasing-in costs for the new **Seaton Long-term Care Home**.
- Continuing to progress the approved **Lakeshore East GO Extension to Bowmanville**.
- Ongoing investment in **Durham OneNet Inc.**

»»» Prioritization of these strategic initiatives including use of non-tax financing is required to achieve the recommended guideline.

Paramedic Services

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Overview

The Durham Regional Police Service has identified total 2025 budget pressures of \$313.3 million (16.9 per cent increase).

- Base Pressures - \$22.4 million
 - Economic increases and other personnel costs - \$14.7 million
 - Annualization of the 76 positions approved in the 2024 budget - \$6.6 million
 - Operating requirements including inflationary pressures - \$1.1 million
- Strategic Investments - \$23.0 million
 - Divisional Leadership and Frontline Constables (74 FTEs) - \$8.6 million
 - Additional Uniform and Civilian Positions (94 FTEs) – \$10.7 million
 - Other Strategic Investments - \$3.7 million
- Facility Capital Forecast - TBD
 - Durham Regional Police Service is completing a Facility Needs Assessment and the results of this study are expected to inform the 2025 capital budget and nine-year forecast



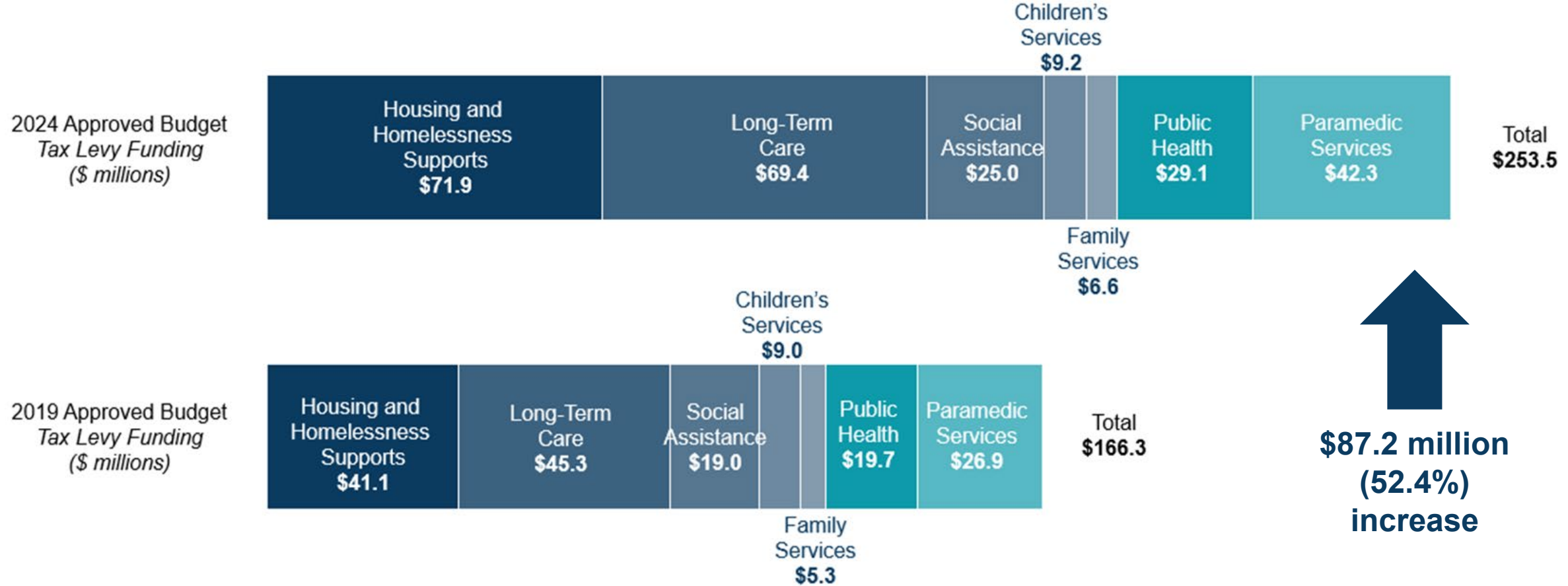
Recommendation

- A 2025 guideline of a 9.25 per cent increase on the Durham Regional Police Service Budget (2.16 per cent overall increase to the Regional property tax levy net of assessment growth).

Fiscal Sustainability - New Financial Framework



In 2024, regional tax levy funding of social services and public health programs was approximately **\$253.5 million** or approximately **28.2 per cent** of the overall regional property tax levy.



The Region continues to:

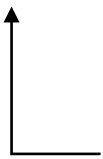
- Support AMO's call for a **Social and Economic Prosperity Review** and FCM's call for a **new framework for raising municipal revenue**.
- Advocate for sustainable **Transit, Housing and Homelessness Support, Public Health** and **capital infrastructure** funding.

Projected Debenture Financing Requirements



The following table is based on the 2024 approved capital budget and nine-year forecast and has been updated for additional debt financing approved in-year 2024.

Service Areas	Projected Debenture Financing Requirements (\$'000's)										Total
	Revised	Forecast									
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	
Durham Regional Police Service	38,495	10,800	25,875	8,560	20,320	59,754	136,255	-	23,030	-	323,089
Transit	63,095	85,980	24,900	9,200	5,200	3,800	4,800	76,000	10,600	-	283,575
Public Works and Waste	6,533	61,779	-	-	-	-	-	-	119,519	21,272	209,103
Rapid Transit and Transit Oriented Development Office	12,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,000
Social Services	-	26,666	23,333	23,333	-	-	-	-	-	-	73,332
Paramedic Services	-	16,270	-	7,040	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,310
Subtotal Property Tax Fund	120,123	201,495	74,108	48,133	25,520	63,554	141,055	76,000	153,149	21,272	924,409
Water Supply Fund	-	63,190	211,516	-	143,168	-	-	-	-	-	417,874
Sanitary Sewer Fund	45,869	71,641	-	23,735	104,263	90,989	-	-	-	-	336,497
Total	165,992	336,326	285,624	71,868	272,951	154,543	141,055	76,000	153,149	21,272	1,678,780



The chart does not include forecasted debt requirements that are anticipated for additional capital priorities including:

- Housing/Homelessness Investments – DRLHC Redevelopment, 300 Ritson Road Revitalization/Redevelopment, 650 Rossland Road Redevelopment, 1635 Dundas Phase 2 capital improvements;
- Durham Regional Police Service’s Capital Program – informed by their facility needs assessment;
- GO East Extension; and
- TOD/BRT

Projected Debt Servicing Costs

- Debt servicing costs are projected to increase by \$175.1 million over the next ten years (\$101.8 million property tax fund; \$40.6 million water supply fund; and \$32.7 million sanitary sewer fund) based on the current forecast.



October
10th

Hosting a **Budget Town Hall** where residents can join over the phone, online and in-person to:

- provide input and feedback on key priorities,
- ask questions about the Region's Business Plans and Budget; and
- learn more about the Region's programs and services.

Your Voice
Your Durham



Utilizing a **year-round engagement plan** to support a wider understanding of the process and seek engagement throughout the process to inform budget development.

Through the annual Budget,
the Region invests in:

Exploring **additional opportunities to engage with residents** throughout the annual Business Planning and Budget process.

Residents are encouraged to ask questions and share their ideas and priorities for the 2025 Budget online by using the [Have Your Say! Tool](#) or by emailing budgets@durham.ca



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5.96% increase over the 2024 approved budget

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Conservation Authorities
2.5% increase over the 2024 approved budget +/- any CVA adjustments

Equivalent to a **2.6 per cent increase** in the total residential property tax bill.
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- The proposed 2025 guideline:
- Supports investments in **Critical Front-Line Service Areas** (paramedic, transit, housing/homelessness supports and police);
 - Meets the challenges of **inflation and capital cost escalations**;
 - Advances **Strategic Plan Priorities**; and
 - Responds to **senior government funding and legislative/regulatory landscape**.



Durham Budget

2025

QUESTIONS