
Subject: Regional Council Ante Room

Report to: Regional Council

Report date: Thursday, January 17, 2019

Recommendations

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the use of the Council Chamber for Standing Committee and Council meetings that are closed to the public;
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to provide a report outlining options to implement the functionality required to facilitate meetings that are closed to the public in Committee Room 4 for the Regional Council meeting being held on March 28, 2019.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to hold meetings that are not open to the public, in the Council Chamber.
- At its meeting held on July 5, 2018, Regional Council approved the use of Committee Room 4 for meetings that are closed to the public.
- Given both the size of Regional Council and Committee Room 4, it has been found that the room does not meet the requirements to facilitate a proper meeting.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations related to using the Council Chamber for closed session meetings of Council or Committee.

Analysis

In an effort to ensure the confidentiality of closed session meetings of Committee and Council, Regional staff recommended a number of process changes during the previous term of Regional Council. One of these recommendations was to utilize Committee Room 4 as an ante room for closed session meetings of Council and Committees.

Although Committee Room 4 has already been utilized for closed session meetings, Regional staff have noted the following issues: not all Councillors are able to sit at the table, (the table can only accommodate 24 people), line of sight was problematic and it was difficult to hear members speaking. In addition, should the meeting be nearing curfew, it is difficult to have Council move back into the Council Chamber in a timely manner.

To ensure complete functionality for efficient meetings in Committee Room 4 there are a number of items that could be considered including installation of microphones and speakers which will also allow for use of assistive listening devices as well as a larger table or alternate seating arrangement to be able to accommodate all Councillors.

Alternatives Reviewed

Council may decide to continue to use Committee Room 4 as an ante room despite the technical and physical limitations.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The improvements to Committee Room 4 are aligned with Council Strategic Priorities via the theme “Advancing Organizational Excellence” and “Customer Service”.

Other Pertinent Reports

CAO 13-2018 REVISED - Update on CAO 05-2018 – Improving the Business of Council

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Appendices

None.