

Council Highlights

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January 28, 2026

Key highlights:

Regional Council began with a reading of the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement and the playing of the Canadian National Anthem.

Regional Chair and CEO, John Henry, recognized the passing of Terry Stevens and acknowledged his contributions as the first Commissioner of Human Resources. He recognized individuals who are retiring from the Region. Finally, he thanked regional and local winter maintenance teams for their around-the-clock efforts, keeping the community safe and moving amid the increased demands since October.

Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer and Nicole Pincombe, Commissioner of Finance & Treasurer, presented an update on the 2026 Regional Business Plans and Budget for Property Tax Purposes, including General Purpose, Solid Waste Management, Durham Region Transit and Durham Region Police Service.

Regional Council approved the 2026 Regional Business Plans and Budget for Property Tax Purposes. The property tax increase of 4.8 per cent translates to a monthly increase of approximately \$14 for an average residential property in Durham Region. See report [2026-COW-5](#) for details.

Council approved a core services review to be undertaken in 2026 to review Regional services and service levels; identify sustainable efficiencies; and quantify where Regional funding exceeds senior government mandated levels. See report [2026-COW-5](#) for details.

Council also approved the Region's participation in a transitional housing pilot program with Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation (DRNPHC). Regional staff were directed to work with the local area municipalities, DRNPHC, community partners and developers to identify a future site for the pilot, develop an operating model, pursue funding

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opportunities, and report back with an update before opening. See the [DRNPHC presentation](#) for details.

A recording of the January 28 Regional Council meeting will be available on [durham.ca](#) and on the Region's [YouTube page](#). The next regularly scheduled Regional Council Meeting is February 25, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

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