



External Briefing Note

GEORGINA

Subject: Towns of Georgina and East Gwillimbury Joint Fire Services Assessment
“Investigating Opportunities for Modernization and Efficiencies”

To: Mayor and Council

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Date: April 6, 2022

Briefing:

Background

With Council’s support, an application for grant funding under the terms of the Municipal Modernization Program – Intake 3, was submitted in late 2021. The application was approved in January 2022 for \$356,160.

The project was described within the application as *“a joint Georgina/East Gwillimbury project to explore alternatives for modernized Fire and Emergency Service delivery”*.

Project Overview

The objectives of the project are to determine efficiencies and modernization opportunities under the terms of the Office of the Fire Marshal's Three Lines of Defence:

- Public Fire Safety Education;
- Fire Safety Standards and Enforcement; and,
- Emergency Response.

It is proposed that three scenarios for cost efficient and effective Fire and Emergency Services (FES) delivery be examined:

- a) modernized standalone departments;
- b) shared service delivery model(s); and,
- c) a consolidated composite department model.

The analysis will encompass:

- a refresh of both municipalities' Fire Master Plans to address current growth projections;
- development of standalone modernization options for both departments;
- shared services opportunities;
- preparation of a consolidated composite department model(s);
- a comparative analysis of the three options (standalone, shared services and consolidated); and,
- implementation strategies for all options.

The Project Team will include a combination of Georgina and East Gwillimbury staff (Fire, Human Resources, Finance) and external expertise with extensive experience in these types of reviews. It's noted that this grant funding program requires that third-party experts be retained to complete the review.

Project Schedule

Project Milestones	Dates
Grant Funding Received	January 25, 2022
Consultant Selection Process	February – April 2022
Project Update to Councils	March – April 2022
Project Kick Off	April 2022
Stakeholder Engagement	May – June 2022
In-Depth Analysis	May – August 2022
Interim Report to Province	September 19, 2022
Draft Report to Councils	September 2022
Final Report to Councils	January 2023
Final Report to Province	January 31, 2023