

Staff Report to Council

Title: Accessibility Advisory Committee-Budget Priorities

Report Number: Legislative Services-2024-18

Director: Corporate Services

Manager: Legislative Services

Meeting Date:
Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Date to be considered by Council:
Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Recommendation:

That Council receive the Accessibility Advisory Committee's recommendations and direct the Committee to continue to update the Catalogue of Issues and highlight specific priorities per facility for future projects.

Executive Summary:

Council passed a resolution during budget discussions, to include \$100,000 from a Reserve Fund on a one-time basis to be used to complete accessibility projects included in the Catalogue of Issues and that Staff provide a report on possible projects. The Accessibility Advisory Committee identified Committee priorities for the funds.

Strategic Priorities:

B.7-Ensure municipal facilities and owned lands make the best use of each asset

Financial Considerations:

\$100,000 in the 2024 Municipal Budget to go towards accessibility, which will be carried forward on an ongoing basis as projects come forward, until spent.

The scope, resources and cost to complete each of the priorities is unknown and was not a factor in the decision of the AAC.

Policy:

Multi Year Accessibility Plan

Annual Public Status Update – Catalogue of Issues

Facility Accessibility Design Standard

Context and Background Information:

On November 22, 2023, the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) presented its recommendations to Council for the following accessible projects for the 2024 Budget:

- 1) Davidson Centre, Penetangore Room (former Old Seniors Room) accessible kitchen and washroom;
- 2) Request \$100,000 be allocated in the Budget, for accessibility projects;
- 3) Updating of all accessible parking spaces; and
- 4) Updating of all municipal crosswalks.

During the 2024 budget, Council passed a motion to include \$100,000 from a Reserve Fund on a one-time basis to be used to complete accessibility projects included in the Catalogue of Issues and that Staff provide a report on possible projects.

Staff made a presentation with a recommendation to the AAC at its May 30th, 2024 meeting. In developing the recommendation, staff considered a project that would have a significant positive impact for the public from an accessibility perspective and looked at the recommendations for accessible projects from the AAC. Staff put forward a project related to improvements at the Davidson Centre, as it is a facility that meets the needs of a large proportion of the population, and accessibility enhancements could have a powerful impact. With this in mind, staff's presentation to the AAC included upgrades to the Customer Service reception area (as presented in the 2023 Julie Sawchuk accessibility report), removal of the Penetangore Room Kitchen with that space and the adjoining hall space be converted into administrative offices (office accessibility was included in the 2023 Julie Sawchuk report as well as the AAC Catalogue of Issues) and that a kitchenette be included on the south wall of the Penetangore Room that would not require the designed turning radius and would be accessible for all.

At the meeting, the AAC recommended that the \$100,000 be used towards many facilities, to bring the Municipality closer to being fully accessible. The Committee set up a Special Meeting in June 2024 to brainstorm ideas, to determine their priorities for the funds, and make a recommendation to Council.

At the Special Meeting, the Committee expressed concern with spending the \$100,000 budget allocation in one facility. It was stressed that everyone should be able to enjoy all the facilities in the Municipality, and not have to take a different route, or not be able to use a washroom.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee passed the following resolution in order of the AAC's priorities:

Moved by Lillian Watterworth

Seconded by Bruce Edwards

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend to Council, that the \$100,000 in the 2024 Municipal Budget, be spent on the following accessible priorities:

1. *All accessible washrooms in municipal facilities, be reviewed and upgraded to comply with the Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS), such as amenities at an accessible height, grab bars, handles on doors, etc.*

2. *That all municipal accessible parking spaces be reviewed and upgraded to comply with the FADS, including size, painting, hatching, signage, curb cuts, and lighting, etc.*
3. *Municipality of Kincardine develop an accessible Signage Strategy document, to address signage in all municipal facilities, such as directional signage at the Davidson Centre and the Administration office, washrooms, etc.*
4. *Accessible tables, chairs and seating be provided for all municipal facilities and outdoor spaces, such as providing chairs with arms and chairs without arms, accessible picnic tables, etc.*
5. *Accessible viewing areas be provided in all municipal sports facilities and parks, such as a viewing area in the Tiverton Sports Complex in the lobby, etc.*
6. *Barrier free doors to all public access areas in municipal facilities, including washrooms and entrances; and*
7. *Service counters in all municipal facilities have a lower accessible section, including customer service counters and canteens.*

Carried

The AAC would therefore request Council consider this list of priorities.

Consultation Overview:

Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Facility Accessibility Design Standards

Origin:

2024 Budget.

Implementation Considerations:

The AAC will continue to re-inspect municipal facilities and parks and update the Catalogue of Issues. The Staff and Council will consult the Catalogue when future renovations or new builds of municipal parks and facilities are planned.

Risk Analysis:

Partial updates to facilities do not make the facility fully accessible to all patrons or fully comply with the FADS.

Attachments: None

Prepared by: Tracey Guy, Deputy Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Lawrie, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk