

Town of Cobourg Governance Review – Have your Say!

The Town of Cobourg Municipal Council is seeking Resident and Community input regarding what is working well and where improvements could be made, particularly on transparency, accountability and how residents are able to participate in Town decision-making.

This Survey will take approximately 10 – 15 minutes to complete and will be available until May 26th, 2023

Introduction:

The Town of Cobourg is committed to building a Town Hall that works through openness and transparency, where elected officials and municipal staff work towards the best interests of the Town as a whole and where positive relationships are built with the public, community organizations and other stakeholders within our community. The Town of Cobourg governance structure and systems should enable and support these goals.

The Town of Cobourg, through the Legislative Services Division and Municipal Clerk is currently conducting a review of its governance by-laws and policies.

All responses will be kept confidential, only overall results without individual identifying information will be shared.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the Clerks office at clerk@cobourg.ca.

1. Please select a category that includes your age:

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 and Over

2. How would you best describe your relationship with the Town of Cobourg? (Select all that apply)

- I am a resident of the Town of Cobourg
- I am employed in a business in the Town of Cobourg
- I am part of a community/non-profit organization in the Town of Cobourg
- I am a volunteer in an organization in the Town of Cobourg
- I own a business in the Town of Cobourg

3. Please review each of the following statements and select your level of agreement or disagreement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I understand how I can communicate with Council on issues I am concerned about.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Town's available information helps me participate effectively in the Town of Cobourg Council Meetings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Town does a good job on effectively engaging residents on items upcoming to Council and decisions that may affect me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. **Let's Collaborate!** Provide comments, if you have any on the above questions and way you think improvements could be made (not mandatory):

5. Have you personally appeared before the Town Council?

Yes

No

6. Please review each of the following statements and select your level of agreement or disagreement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Strongly Disagree	Disagree
My experience in appearing before Council was constructive and worth my time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe my interests and concerns were heard and given consideration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was treated respectfully.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Delegations to municipal council are currently requested through the Clerks Office. Residents or Organization wishing to speak before Council must meet a deadline of the Friday prior to the Monday (Tuesday if a holiday) Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Please select the following option that you agree Council should consider:

- Delegations should remain unchanged as noted above.
- Delegations should be accepted by Council all the way to the start of the meeting if a individual would like to speak.
- Delegations, if related to a specific agenda item should be heard at the beginning of that discission by Council if not at the beginning of the council meeting.

8. **Lets Collaborate!** Provide comments if you have any on the above question(s) (not mandatory):

9. Please review each of the following statements and select your level of agreement or disagreement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Information on issues that are being considered by Council are easy to find.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information on issues that are being considered by Council is useful and easy to understand.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe Council provides effective oversight of the Town performance relating to timelines and efficient reporting on items to the Council floor.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe Council provide efficient reports and engagement on the Town's budget and finances throughout the year.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All council related information and news on decisions and	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



10. **Lets collaborate!** Provide comments if you have any on the above questions (not mandatory):

11. Please review each of the following statements and select your level of agreement or disagreement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Matters to be considered by Council are dealt with in a timely way.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Matters to be considered by Council are dealt with efficiently.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council ensures that the Town addresses resident priorities through delivering Council Strategic plan goals and objectives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council ensures that the Town is focused on the right items.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe Council overall makes decisions based on what they believe is in the best interest of the Town.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest, overall, how satisfied are you with the governance of the Town?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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13. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest, please indicate how much of a priority you feel it is for the Town of Cobourg Council to improve the current governance practices under each principle.

	1	2	3	4	5
Inclusivity: Residents have a fair and reasonable opportunity to participate in decision making.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transparency: Information is openly available and easy to access and understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accountability: Oversight and responsibility for the process and the performance of the Town and services.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efficiency: timeliness, effective use of resources and Strategic Plan by Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effectiveness : achieving desired results and addressing resident priorities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Municipal Council currently conducts all Council Meetings at 6:00 P.M. and Public Meetings at 5:00 P.M. in Council Chambers. The Council Meeting are streamed live and recorded for later viewing at <https://pub-cobourg.escribemeetings.com/>. Council meetings are also conducted through a Hybrid meeting model, where the public, staff and Council can participate remotely if desired. Please select the following meeting times that you would feel appropriate for Council to schedule their Standing Committees or Committee of the Whole meetings?

- Continue Meetings to be held at 6:00 p.m. and in the evening
- Meetings to be held during typical working hours (e.g. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
- I would prefer a mix of meetings that are held during typical working hours and in the evening.
- I do not have a preference regarding when Council meets.

15. In 2019 the Town of Cobourg incorporated the use of a Committee of the Whole Open Forum opportunity that is a standing item appearing at the end of the meeting for residents, groups or media to ask questions or make comments to Municipal Council. Please choose one of the following options:

- The Open Forum works well as utilized
- The Open Forum should be moved to the start of the meeting rather than the end.
- The Open Forum should be removed. There are better options to engage with Council.
- I do not have a preference.
- Other

16. Municipal Council currently at its Regular Council Meeting provides an opportunity for Members of Council to provide reports on their time in the community at the end of each Regular Council Meeting. Please choose one of the following options:

- The Council Announcements are effective and helpful to learn what Members are up to outside of Council meetings.
- The Council Announcements do not provide any benefit to the Council meetings.
- Council should redevelop this section on Council updates, introduce a new way of providing these reports in a Council Meeting.
- Other

17. Would you support a change in the Town's governance structure?

- Yes
- No
- Other

18. Please review each of the following statements and select your level of agreement or disagreement.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
I feel Advisory Committees provide a value to Council Decision Making.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would sit on an Advisory Committee of Council if the term of appointment was 12 to 18 months to accomplish a specific task asked of Council.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advisory Committees current structures are to complex and intimidating to be a member of.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would be more inclined to join a Committee of Council if the meetings were less formal.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. Please use the space below to share any additional comments or concerns regarding Councils governance.

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