

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: June 23, 2025

Subject: CAO-2025-12 – Strong Mayor Powers (2)

Report from: Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council receive Report CAO-2025-11 - Strong Mayor Powers (2) for information, and that staff continue to monitor the implementation of Strong Mayor powers and report back with any procedural or policy implications.

Background

As of May 1, 2025, the Province of Ontario expanded its Strong Mayor powers to 169 additional municipalities, including Arran-Elderslie.

These powers are intended to help municipalities deliver on provincial priorities such as: Building 1.5 million homes by 2031 and developing infrastructure (transit, roads, utilities)

This follow-up report to [CAO-2025-07](#) outlines the expansion of Strong Mayor powers to the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, effective May 1, 2025.

Analysis

Key Powers

1. Executive Authority:

- Appoint or delegate the hiring of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
- Hire/terminate certain department heads (excluding statutory roles)
- Reorganize municipal departments

2. Council & Committees:

- Create, dissolve, and assign functions to committees
- Appoint chairs and vice-chairs

3. By-law Powers:

- Propose by-laws that support provincial priorities
- Require Council to vote on proposed by-laws (passed with >1/3 support)
- Veto by-laws that may interfere with provincial priorities
- Council can override veto with a 2/3 majority

4. Budget Authority:

- Propose the annual municipal budget by February 1
- Veto Council amendments (subject to override)
- Initiate in-year budget amendments

5. Staff Direction & Delegation:

- Direct staff in writing
- Delegate powers to Council or CAO

Mayor's Planned Approach

In consultation with the Mayor, the Mayor's intended actions in response to the Strong Mayor powers aim to balance executive authority with collaboration and transparency. By delegating key responsibilities back to Council and the CAO, and maintaining traditional budget collaboration with staff, the Mayor seeks to support provincial priorities while fostering a cooperative and informed municipal governance.

Delegation of CAO Appointment and Council/Committee Responsibilities

The Mayor intends to delegate the appointment of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the responsibilities related to Council and committees back to the Council. This delegation aims to ensure that these critical decisions are made collaboratively and with the input of all Council members.

Delegation of Executive Authority for Hiring/Terminating and Reorganizing

The Mayor will delegate the executive authority for hiring and terminating certain municipal division heads, as well as reorganizing municipal departments, back to the CAO. This delegation will enable the CAO to manage the organizational structure efficiently while ensuring compliance with legal requirements and existing agreements.

Budget Collaboration with Staff

The Mayor will continue to work with staff in the traditional manner to propose the annual municipal budget at the end of the year. This collaborative approach will ensure that the budget reflects the needs and priorities of the municipality and ensure input from the public, members of Council, and staff recommendations through established consultation processes.

By-law Powers and Public Documentation

The Mayor will be required to exercise by-law powers in writing, and all related documentation will be made public and included in the by-law. This transparency will ensure that the community is informed about the by-laws proposed and the reasons behind them.

Implementation and Monitoring

Staff will monitor the implementation of delegated powers and report back to Council on any procedural or policy impacts. This includes tracking the use of by-law powers and ensuring compliance with public documentation requirements.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.6 Modernizing Services

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

There are no financial impacts related to this report.

Approved by: Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer