

Item 9.1.1

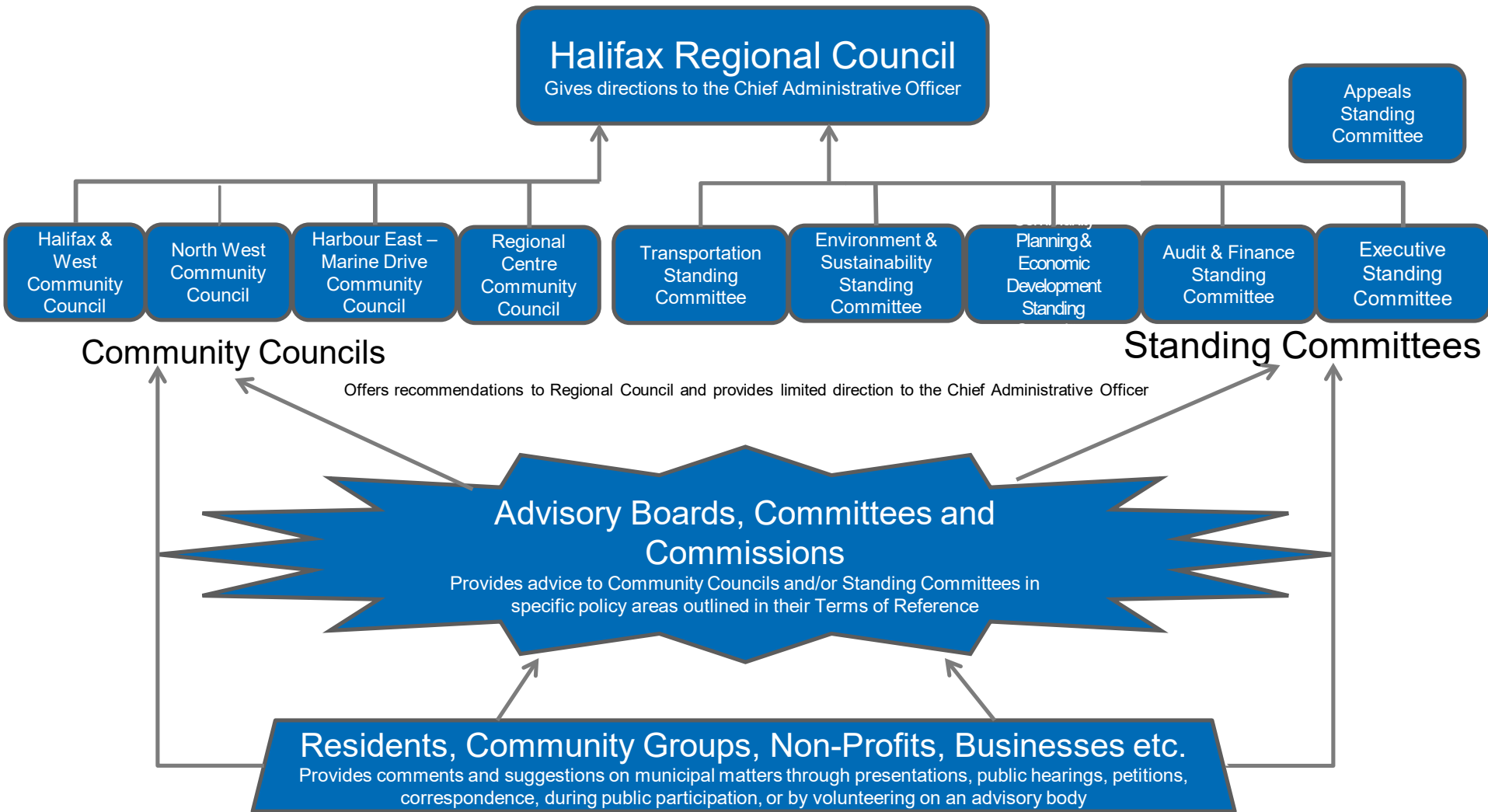
HALIFAX

ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Heritage Advisory Committee Orientation

January 27, 2021

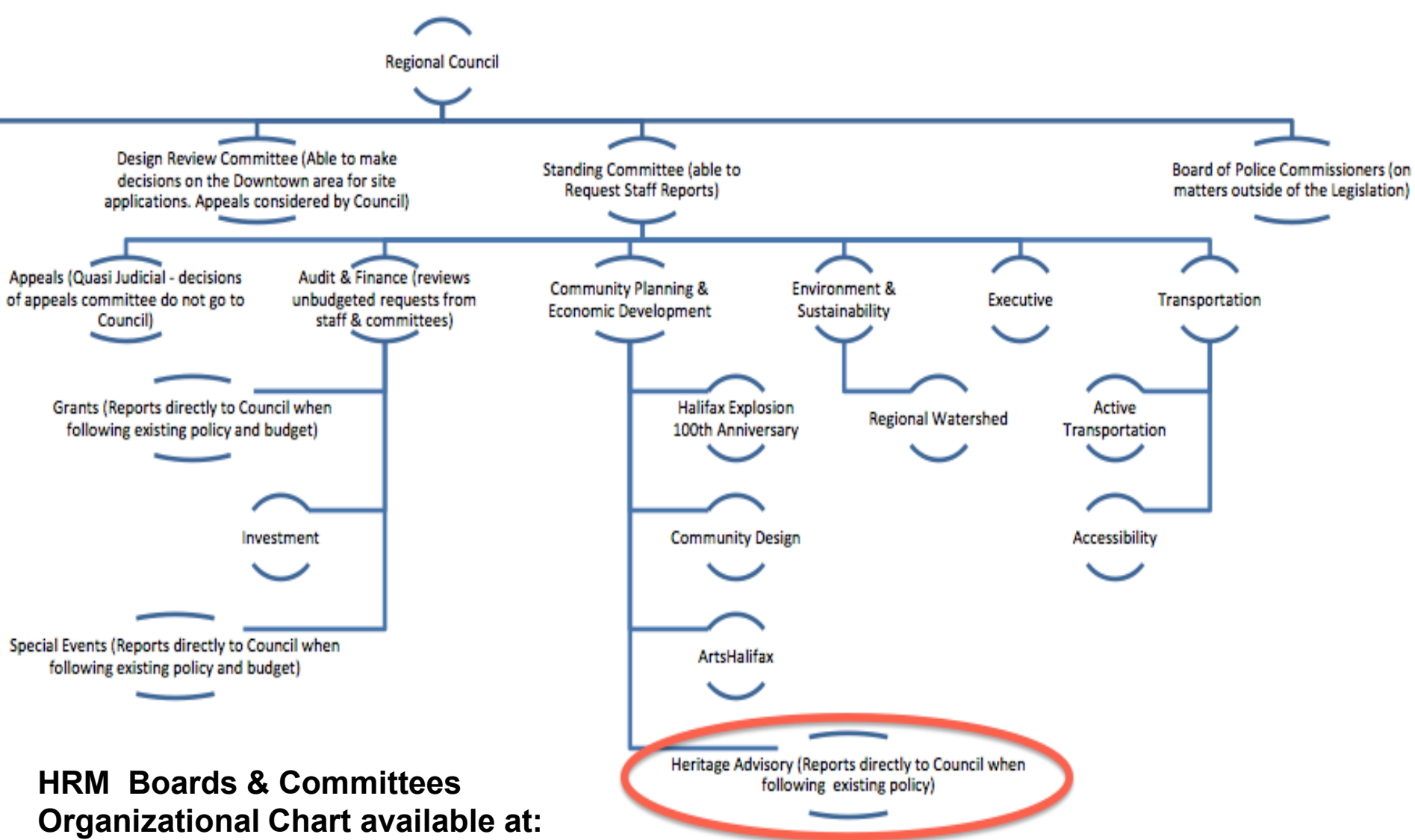
Halifax Regional Municipality Decision Making Process



Role of Advisory Boards & Committees

- To advise Regional Council, Community Council(s) or Standing Committee(s) on items relating to the mandate of the Board/Committee as outlined in their **Terms of Reference**.
- The role is strictly advisory with no final decision-making or direction provided to staff.





**HRM Boards & Committees
Organizational Chart available at:**

<https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/BoardsCommitteesOrganizationalChart.pdf>

Heritage Advisory Committee

- Derives mandate from two key pieces of legislation:
 - 1.) *NS Heritage Property Act. R.S., c. 199, s. 1.* (Provincial)
 - **Section 13** – “Powers of heritage advisory committee”
 - 2.) **HRM By-Law H-200** (Municipal)
 - **Terms of Reference** for the Heritage Advisory Committee.



Board & Committee Meetings

- All meetings of Council, Community Councils and Boards and Committees are governed by **Administrative Order 1**, Respecting the Procedures of the Council:
<https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/legislation-by-laws/administrative-order-one>
- **Quorum** is required for a Board/Committee to call a meeting to order.
 - Quorum for HAC is $\frac{1}{2}$ of members plus 1

ROLES: Chair & Vice Chair

- The **Chair & Vice Chair** are elected annually by the members of the Committee.
- The Vice-Chair takes on the responsibilities of the Chair in the Chair's absence.



ROLES: Councillors

The role of the **Councillor** is to establish and maintain a link (liaison) between Regional Council and the Advisory Board/Committee.

- Able to provide clarity when the decisions of an advisory board/committee, of which they are a member, reach a higher decision making body.



ROLES: Staff Liaison

A **Staff Liaison** (resource person) is assigned to each Committee. They will attend all meetings of the Committee to speak on behalf of the Business Unit concerning matters within the mandate of the Board/Committee.



HALIFAX

ROLES: Legislative Assistant



- Coordinates meetings and creates the agenda in consultation with the Chair.
- Provides legislative guidance and assists with the drafting of motions.
- Assists the Chair to ensure appropriate meeting decorum and safety.
- Takes minutes, documents board/committee decisions, and ensures openness and transparency in the decision-making process.



Meeting Agendas

- **Agendas** set out the order of business for a Committee meeting.
- Provides notice to committee members, HRM staff, and the public of what will be covered and in what order.
- Agendas are in a format consistent with Regional Council, adapted for the needs of the specific Committee.
- Committee members can add matters to the agenda that are within the mandate of the Committee by contacting the LA.

Conflict of Interest

- The ***Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*** applies to Regional Council, Community Councils, and Boards and Committees:
<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/municipal%20conflict%20of%20interest.pdf>
- Section 6 of the *Act* requires that any member who has any ***direct, indirect or deemed pecuniary (financial) interest*** in any matter before the Board/Committee:
 - Formally disclose the conflict and its general nature;
 - Withdraw from the meeting table when the matter comes up on the agenda;
 - Refrain from taking part in the debate and voting on the matter.
- Undeclared conflicts of interest, whether perceived or direct, can put the decisions of the board/committee at risk, and potentially expose the member to personal liability.



Only you can determine a conflict of interest



Member Conduct

- The Chair is the spokesperson for the Committee and will communicate only the recommendation of the Committee. Other Committee members may not represent the Committee or municipality in any capacity.
- A member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without having been excused shall be deemed to have resigned from the Committee.
- Members of the public who are appointed to an Advisory Committee shall serve and be seen to serve in a conscientious and diligent manner that accommodates access to services by diverse communities and is respectful of difference and diversity.

