On September 24th, a University Visioning charette was hosted by the Town of East Gwillimbury. There were 33 participants including landowners, education representatives, community stakeholders and four Council members. Since there was a scoped invitee list of municipal leaders and the majority of Council requested to be present, this session was held as a closed Special Council Meeting, in compliance with the Municipal Act and in keeping with the September 4th discussions and direction of Council.

The purpose of the charette was to gather information on what a university in East Gwillimbury could be and to assist in developing a platform on which to build broader support for the East Gwillimbury University initiative.

A summary of the charette discussions is attached for reference purposes. This document provides a summary of the discussions within the following framework:

- Identification of trends, issues and events that could assist in framing Post Secondary Education planning;
- Potential benefits from a university for the Town and the Region;
- Key attributes for successful development of a university in East Gwillimbury; and
- Overview of emerging key themes.

While the charette summary forms part of the public agenda package, staff are also suggesting that it be uploading to the Town’s website for ease of public access.

Staff will be preparing a report regarding next steps and making recommendations as to a broader communication and public engagement strategy. We anticipate that this report will be submitted to Council as part of the October 15th, 2012 agenda.