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Report 2024-119

Report Title: Police Services Review

Prepared by: Matthew Nitsch
Director of Finance/Treasurer
Finance

Approved by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Meeting Date: September 18, 2024

Report Not Considered by Standing Committee Because:

- Time-sensitive Issue (information received too late for Committee consideration)
- Urgent Matter (issue arose after this month's Committee meeting)
- Other

Strategic Plan Priorities:

- Innovate for Service Excellence
- Ignite Economic Opportunity
- Foster a Thriving Community
- Propel Sustainable Growth
- Champion a Vibrant Future

Recommendation

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to introduce the results of Phase 1 of the Police Services Review study requested by Council, and to seek Council's direction on whether to proceed to Phase 2 of the project.

Background

Northumberland County is undergoing transformational change and growth. The Principal Direction of the County's 2023-2027 Community Strategic Plan is to guide this growth with intention. As the Mayors of Northumberland, County Council recognizes the importance of assessing current policing practices and exploring all options to meet evolving community needs.

In 2023, County Council passed resolution 2023-01-25 which added \$75,000 to the 2023 County budget to retain a consultant to update the 2007 “Policing Study Final Report for Northumberland County”. This updated study would support municipal planning for effective and affordable policing over the long-term, as the community grows and changes, by identifying service delivery options ranging from maintaining existing service structures to exploring a combined model.

County staff conducted a Request for Proposals for this project and the successful proponent was StrategyCorp.

The project with StrategyCorp was structured into two phases. The results of Phase 1 – the Police Services Review study – are the subject of this report and attachments. The study is meant to inform a discussion about police service delivery models, including service requirements and costs. The report considers current service delivery models in Northumberland and provides an analysis of potential alternatives. This report is meant to give County Council the information needed to determine if proceeding to the next phase of the project is warranted.

Phase 2 of this project, should County Council choose to proceed, involves a full costing of the alternative models of police service delivery considered in the study.

Consultations

StrategyCorp conducted interviews with various stakeholders throughout this process. This included leadership from each of the three police services in Northumberland – the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Northumberland detachment, the Port Hope Police Service, and the Cobourg Police Service – police service board representatives, Chief Simpson of the Alderville First Nation, Mayors and CAOs for the Northumberland member municipalities, County staff, and other subject matter experts.

Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations

The relevant pieces of legislation that would need to be considered in this situation are The Municipal Act and The Community Safety and Policing Act.

Risk considerations are contemplated in the Police Service Review report from Strategy Corp.

Discussion / Options

The options available to County Council are:

1. To receive the study from StrategyCorp for information and take no further action, or
2. To proceed with Phase 2 of the project, including further analysis that will involve a full costing of alternative models of police service delivery.

The options of what alternative models of police service delivery should be considered are outlined in the StrategyCorp study.

Financial Impact

Phase 1 of this project cost \$67,161.60 including non-recoverable HST. If County Council chooses to proceed with Phase 2 of the project, StrategyCorp would move forward at a cost of \$375 per hour.

The estimated costs of the current and alternative models of police service delivery are outlined in the StrategyCorp study.

Member Municipality Impacts

A decision to move to Phase 2 of this project would not have an immediate/direct impact to member municipalities.

Any potential impact to member municipalities, including a change in the way police services are delivered, would be at the discretion of each lower-tier municipality – with whom jurisdiction for police services ultimately resides – following a review of study outcomes.

Conclusion / Outcomes

County Council holds local police services in the highest regard for their professionalism and dedication to community safety. This review seeks to ensure that policing in Northumberland is poised for long-term success. By spearheading a study on recommendations for effective and affordable policing as the community grows and changes, the County is supporting Northumberland municipalities with the necessary insights to make informed decisions about ensuring the safety and security of Northumberland residents well into the future.

County staff are seeking direction from Council on whether to proceed with Phase 2 of this project, being a full costing of alternative models of police service delivery identified in the Phase 1 study attached to this report.

Attachments

Report 2024-119 ATTACH 1 'StrategyCorp - Police Services Review - Report Summary'