

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: March 25, 2024
To: Mayor and City Councillors
From: Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer
Report Number: COU24-035
Attachments: Letter from Stratford Public Library Board

Title: Stratford Public Library Board – Grand Trunk Community Hub

Objective: To hear the presentation from the Stratford Public Library regarding their request, and to seek direction of Council.

Background: The Board has sent a letter to the City requesting that the Public Library be considered as an anchor tenant in the Grand Trunk Project.

Analysis: Please refer to the correspondence dated December 6, 2023 from the Board.

Along with the Board letter, attached is a link to the Space Needs Assessment dated 2022. [Library Space Needs Assessment 2022](#)

Following the presentation at the March 25 Council meeting regarding the Public Library, it is recommended that the request be forwarded to the Ad Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee for review and to make a recommendation to City Council. The Ad Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee is currently in the first year of its mandate to be a sounding board to Council regarding the Grand Trunk site renewal.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

There are no immediate financial implications to the City 2024 operating budget related to this request from the Library.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

There will be a financial implication to the City's future operating budgets related to the operating and maintenance of a new public library or satellite as it represents additions to the current service delivery model. As part of the Library 2024 Budget submission, they included the capital costs of a new build in future years of the 10-year forecast, as

well as an ongoing capital budget ask to build the capital reserve fund for this, and future library facility needs.

The correspondence from the Board outlines their approach to a capital fundraising campaign, applying for grants for construction and other potential funding.

Link to asset management plan and strategy:

This proposed project and any works completed at the Grand Trunk site will represent both new assets and rehabilitation of the Grand Trunk building. The exact effects will emerge if the project proceeds.

A larger library or satellite will impact future capital planning forecasts and funding strategies will be updated accordingly as more information becomes available.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Culture and Community

Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the correspondence from the Stratford Public Library Board requesting that the Library be considered as an anchor tenant in the Grand Trunk Community Hub be received;

AND THAT the correspondence be referred to the Ad Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee for consideration of the request and to provide a recommendation for Council's consideration.

Prepared by: Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommended by: Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer