

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: June 24, 2024
To: Mayor and Council
From: Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer
Report Number: COU24-065
Attachments: None

Title: Health Unit Cost Apportionment Agreement Renewal

Objective: To consider renewal of the Cost Apportionment Agreement with area municipalities for the payment of services from Huron Perth Public Health.

Background: The *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (the "Act") provides for the organization and delivery of public health programs and services. Section 72 of the Act requires the participating municipalities to pay the expenses of the health unit in such proportion as agreed upon among the parties. If the parties fail to agree on the proportion of costs, regulation 489/97 sets out that costs will be apportioned using population.

Prior to January 1, 2020, the County of Perth, the City of Stratford, and the Town of St. Marys were the municipal partners in the Perth District Health Unit. A cost apportionment agreement for this service was developed and approved in 2017 with costs being shared on a weighted assessment basis.

Effective January 1, 2020 the Perth District Health Unit and the Huron County Health Unit amalgamated to create the Huron Perth Public Health. At the time, it was agreed by all four participating municipalities (County of Huron, County of Perth, City of Stratford and Town of St. Marys) to adopt the cost apportioning agreement template developed by the Perth municipalities. The County of Huron agreed to the proposed agreement at their Council meeting on January 8, 2020.

The current cost apportionment agreement is set to expire on December 31, 2024.

Analysis: This report presents a revised agreement that includes minor changes and a new term through to December 31, 2028. The changes to the agreement are minor in nature, with the primary revisions being:

- Revised the term of the agreement to January 1, 2025 through to December 31, 2028;
- Updated all relevant dates to reflect the new term of 2028 (i.e. key dates for commencement, Negotiation Notice, etc.).
- Added a clause to provide clarity: that the new agreement replaces the existing agreement; and that all parties to the agreement are responsible for their proportionate share of the health unit costs up to its expiry date.
- Fixed a minor typo in the example calculation for the Huron County allocation shown in Schedule "A".

It is recommended that the revisions to the agreement, being minor in nature, be made and that the City enter into the cost apportionment renewal agreement.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

There is no impact to the 2024 operating budget as a result of this renewal of the cost sharing arrangement.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

The costs for funding the municipal portion of the Huron Perth Public Health annual budget will be shared proportionally among Stratford, Perth, St. Marys and Huron on a weighted assessment basis as provided for in the renewal agreement.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Not applicable: This report relates to the City's requirement to fund local public health services and the cost sharing arrangement with partner municipalities.

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 Huron Perth Public Health Cost Apportionment Agreement between The Corporation of the City of Stratford, The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys, The Corporation of the County of Perth and The Corporation of the County of Huron be renewed for a further four (4) year term effective January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028;

AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Stratford.

Prepared by: Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommended by: Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer