

Staff Report



To	Committee of the Whole
Service Area	Public Services
Date	Tuesday, February 6, 2024
Subject	Physician Recruitment Initiative

Recommendation

1. That the one-time contribution for physician recruitment as adopted in the 2024-2027 budget be transferred to the Guelph-Wellington Ontario Health Team without the receipt of the corresponding contribution from the Guelph Chamber of Commerce.

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To update the previous funding approved during the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget process for the Guelph-Wellington Ontario Health Team’s Physician Recruitment initiative, given the revised submission that reflects the Guelph Chamber of Commerce’s change in support.

Key Findings

As part of the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget Process and following a delegation request from the Guelph-Wellington Ontario Health Team (GW-OHT), Council approved the funding of a two year Physician Recruitment initiative, subject to corresponding funding also being received from the County of Wellington and the Guelph Chamber of Commerce. Subsequent to the budget approval, staff learned that the Chamber of Commerce would not be providing the corresponding cash contribution, and instead would only be supporting the work through an in-kind contribution. Therefore, staff no longer have the authority to provide the funding as directed without Council updating the conditions contained in the original motion.

Strategic Plan Alignment

As stated in the delegation to Council from the GW-OHT, “Our municipal and commerce partners appreciate their role in promoting the health and well-being of our residents and in supporting efforts to ensure there is sufficient physician capacity to meet the health care needs of the residents of Guelph and Wellington County.”

Future Guelph Theme

People and Economy

Future Guelph Objectives

People and Economy: Support community well-being

Financial Implications

None

Report

The Guelph-Wellington Ontario Health Team approached City staff, seeking funding support for a Physician Recruitment strategy. As was stated in the original submission, “living a healthy life in Guelph and Wellington requires access to primary care” and it was expressed that the municipality and local commerce have a role in promoting the health and wellbeing of residents. The original ask was for funding from the City of Guelph, the County of Wellington, and the Chamber of Commerce for \$43,335 from each organization for two years (2024 and 2025).

City staff reviewed the request but felt that given the existing budget pressures and resulting mandate to focus on the core services of the municipality along with the desire not to fund health care servicing which should be the responsibility of the Provincial government, the budget request would not be added to the base budget. Instead, it was recommended that the GW-OHT delegate to Council on November 15, 2023.

The GW-OHT delegated to Council as part of the budget delegation night, and reiterated the requested funding as well as the partnership that was being proposed between the two municipalities and the Chamber of Commerce. The written submission also articulated the funding contribution split between the three organizations.

As part of the budget approval, Council passed the following motion:

That Council amend Guelph’s 2024-2027 operating budget by increasing 2024, one-time, by \$43,335 and increasing 2025, one-time by \$43,335, to provide a grant to the Guelph Wellington Ontario Health Team for physician recruitment, subject to the receipt of the corresponding contributions for this initiative from the County of Wellington, and Guelph Chamber of Commerce, funded through the tax levy.

Subsequent to the budget approval and passing of the above motion, staff learned that the Chamber of Commerce’s contribution was going to be in-kind, rather than the corresponding cash amount as had been originally discussed with the partners and articulated in the submission. Accordingly, an updated submission was provided by the GW-OHT to staff showing the modified budget of \$86,670 per year, split equally between the two remaining partners who would be making cash contributions: the City of Guelph and the County of Wellington.

Financial Implications

None – the City’s funding of \$43,335 for each of 2024 and 2025 was approved through the 2024-2027 multi-year budget process and is unchanged.

Consultations and Engagement

Guelph-Wellington Ontario Health Team

County of Wellington

Attachments

Attachment-1 Letter from Guelph-Wellington Ontario Health Team

Departmental Approval

Tara Baker, General Manager Finance / City Treasurer

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