

Staff Report



To	City Council
Service Area	Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Date	Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Subject	Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee Update

Recommendation

1. That City Council endorse the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee Terms of Reference, included as Attachment-1 to report 2024-83 dated February 27, 2024.
 2. That the Mayor, the service area chairs of Public Services and Infrastructure, Development and Environment, and the service area vice-chair of Governance be appointed to the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee as described in report 2024-83 dated February 27, 2024.
 3. That _____ be appointed as the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee chair/vice-chair for a term ending November 30th, 2024, or until such time as a successor is appointed.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek City Council endorsement of the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee (JSSLAC) Terms of Reference, effective as of April 1, 2024. The proposed JSSLAC is comprised equally of membership from Guelph City Council and Wellington County Council.

Key Findings

Wellington County (the County) and the City of Guelph (the City) share areas of mutual interest and regional significance. This mutual interest includes the provision of social services and land ambulance services which are shared between the City and County. All decisions related to these shared services are made in the best interests of both the County and City equally.

The County and City commit to a collaborative relationship to strategically influence and respond to matters of mutual interest. It is intended that having a JSSLAC with equal representation from the City and County will foster co-operation, communication and transparency between the two parties for the purpose of achieving the objectives of Guelph, Wellington and the Province of Ontario.

The importance of coordinated efforts made by the City and County to ensure that we are aligned in supporting community needs is imperative to our collective success.

Strategic Plan Alignment

This report aligns to Future Guelph, Guelph's 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan through the theme of people and economy where our goal is to support community well-being.

Future Guelph Theme

People and Economy

Future Guelph Objectives

People and Economy: Support community well-being

Financial Implications

None.

Report

Background

On October 17, 2023 City Council passed the following resolution:

That the Mayor and CAO be directed to work with the County of Wellington Warden and CAO to conduct a review of the governance model of the County of Wellington's Social Services Committee, to establish clarity and accountability regarding the City and the County's role in the approval of priorities and spending related to Social Services, and report back to Council no later than Q1 2024.

Warden Lennox, Mayor Guthrie, County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Wilson, and City CAO Stewart have met to discuss the need by both Councils to have policy input into the shared services delivered by both parties. To facilitate that input, County and City staff are recommending the creation of a JSSLAC which is comprised of four members of County Council and four members of City Council.

Terms of Reference, Meeting Location and Procedures

The terms of reference for the JSSLAC, as prepared by County staff, are included as Attachment-1. The JSSLAC will meet at County facilities and be run administratively by the County Clerk's Office with the City CAO and City Deputy CAO of Public Services (or their designates) as the primary staff contacts attending from the City. County Council will meet to approve the JSSLAC terms of reference at a meeting on February 29th, 2024. Concurrently, City staff are recommending that the terms of reference be endorsed by City Council.

As the JSSLAC will meet at County facilities, it will operate under the County Procedure Bylaw and other governance policies and procedures. County Council and committee meetings are held in-person at County facilities. JSSLAC meetings will take place the second Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m.

Appointments

The JSSLAC is comprised of four members of County Council and four members of City Council. City staff are recommending that the Mayor (as the service area chair of Governance), the service area chairs of Public Services and Infrastructure, Development and Environment, and the service area vice-chair of Governance be appointed to the JSSLAC.

Public Services and Infrastructure, Development and Environment together represent the majority of City services related to housing, social services and land ambulance service, including facilities needed to deliver land ambulance services. The chair of Public Services also sits on the Committee of Management for the Elliott, which ensures there is representation from the Committee of Management on the JSSLAC.

As the JSSLAC requires and enables enhanced cooperation between the City and County, the Mayor and vice-chair of Governance are also recommended as appointments to ensure effective intergovernmental cooperation.

Chairing

The JSSLAC will have two chairs/vice-chairs appointed, one by each Council respectively. The position of chair and vice-chair will rotate between the two appointed chairs/vice-chairs annually. At no time will the chair and vice-chair position be held simultaneously by two members from the same Council.

The County chair/vice-chair will assume chair responsibilities from April 1st to November 30th, 2024 and the City chair/vice-chair will assume chair responsibilities from December 1st, 2024 to November 30th, 2025.

City staff are recommending that the term of the appointment of the City chair/vice-chair be to November 30th, 2024 to align with the appointment cycle for Committee of the Whole service area chairs.

The appointment of a member of City Council to serve as the JSSLAC chair/vice-chair will take place in accordance with the [City Council Appointment Procedures](#).

Terms of Reference

Mandate and General Responsibilities

The JSSLAC provides advice to Wellington County Council on all work related to its role as the Consolidated Municipal Services Manager (CMSM) for social services and to Guelph City Council on all work related to land ambulance services, including facilities related to that service.

The County, as the CMSM, will bring forward policy matters, operational reporting, and proposed budgeting for social services (housing, childcare and Ontario Works). Final decisions regarding social services will be made by County Council.

The City, as the Delivery Agent for land ambulance service (Guelph-Wellington Paramedic Services) will bring forward policy matters, operational reporting and proposed budgeting for land ambulance service. Final decisions regarding land ambulance service will be made by City Council.

Financial Implications

None.

Consultations and Engagement

Consultations took place with the County, and the terms of reference for the JSSLAC have been mutually agreed upon by staff and are being presented to County Council for approval on February 29th, 2024.

Attachments

Attachment-1 Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee Terms of Reference

Departmental Approval

Stephen O'Brien, General Manager, City Clerk's Office/City Clerk

Report Author

Anthony Dolcetti, Housing Stability Advisor

Dylan McMahon, Manager, Legislative Services/Deputy City Clerk

This report was approved by:

Jodie Sales

General Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Intergovernmental Services

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

519-822-1260 extension 3617

jodie.sales@guelph.ca

This report was recommended by:

Colleen Clack-Bush

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Public Services

519-822-1260 extension 2588

colleen.clack-bush@guelph.ca

Scott Stewart

Chief Administrative Officer

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

519-822-1260 extension 2221

scott.stewart@guelph.ca