

**GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Review of Strathcona County Investment Program and Council Priority Funding Policies****Report Purpose**

To provide Council with recommendations from the Governance Advisory Committee on the Strathcona County Investment Program policy and on the Council Priority Funding policy.

**Motion on the Floor**

**May 9, 2017** – (2017/187) THAT the Council Priority Funding program be discontinued effective July 1, 2017; and that Administration prepare a report that provides the required policy amendments for the discontinuation of this program and provides a recommendation on how to address the funds that have been earmarked for this program, including adding the funds to Strathcona Community Investment Program; and that this report be brought to the June 6, 2017 Council meeting.

**Recommendation**

1. THAT the Motion on the Floor (2017/187) be defeated.
2. THAT policy GOV-002-030 Strathcona County Investment Program be rescinded; and that the remaining 2018 funds for this program be reallocated to the Council Priority Fund Expenditures program evenly among all members of Council.
3. THAT effective January 1, 2019, budgeted Council Priority Funds be allocated evenly among all members of Council.
4. THAT the amendments to policy GOV-001-032 Council Priority Fund Expenditures, as set out in Enclosure 3 of the May 8, 2018 Governance Advisory Committee report, be approved.

**Council History**

**September 12, 2018** - THAT Administration work with the Governance Advisory Committee to review the Council Priority Fund Expenditures Policy and the Strathcona Community Investment Program Policy to ensure equitability and fairness in the County's funding practices; and that a report with recommendations be provided to the Priorities Committee for consideration in the second quarter of 2018.

**September 12, 2018** - THAT motion 2017/187 be postponed until the last Council meeting of the second quarter of 2018.

**May 9, 2017** - THAT the motion on the floor (2017/ 187) be referred to the Governance Advisory Committee for further study and report back to Council by the end of the 3rd Quarter 2017.

**Rationale**

Currently, there are two funding programs intended to support community initiatives or events that benefit Strathcona County and its residents: Council Priority Funding and the Strathcona Community Investment Program (SCIP). Enclosure 1 provides an overview and comparison of the two programs.

Council has debated having the two separate programs and has questioned whether or not the program policy or criteria could be improved. In May 2017, a motion to discontinue the Priority Funding Program was made, but ultimately postponed and then referred to the Governance Advisory Committee (GAC) for further consideration.

Additionally, Council has also tasked the GAC with reviewing the policies for both the SCIP and Priority Funding programs to “ensure equitability and fairness in the County’s funding practices”.

At its April 12, 2018 meeting, the GAC reviewed both programs and determined that the best course of action would be to defeat the current motion on the floor because it would be more appropriate to eliminate the SCIP program. The GAC also identified a number of clarifications that could be made to the policy for Council Priority Funding policy to help ensure greater consistency and fairness in the approval of such requests.

**Enclosures**

- 1 Comparison of SCIP and Council Priority Funding
- 2 Council Priority Fund Policy (current with changes identified)
- 3 Council Priority Fund Policy (proposed)