

**Strathcona County Priority Fund Policy (Review) - Continued****Report Purpose**

To provide Council with revisions to the Council Priority Fund Policy as requested.

**Recommendation**

1. THAT motion 2018/315 and amendment 2018/317 be withdrawn.
2. THAT revised GOV-001-032 Council Priority Fund Policy, as set out in Enclosure 2 of the September 25, 2018 Legislative and Legal Services report, be approved.

**Motion on the Floor (2018/315)**

THAT the revised GOV-001-032 Council Priority Fund Policy, as set out in Enclosure 2 of the September 11, 2018 Governance Advisory Committee report, be approved.

**Amendment on the Floor (2018/317)**

THAT the motion be amended by adding the words: "with the deletion of the words 'equally among all members of Council' in section 16 and replaced with the words 'to General Revenue at the end of each term' in section 16, following the words "be approved".

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

**Report**

In accordance with its mandate and Council direction, the Governance Advisory Committee (GAC) reviewed the Council Priority Fund policy and proposed a number of revisions to Council. Some of the GAC's recommendations arose from Council's decision to discontinue the Strathcona County Investment Program (SCIP), while other changes were aimed at improving the Council Priority Fund program or adding clarity to the policy.

At the May 8, 2018 Council meeting, Council received a GAC report with some proposed changes to the policy. While there was satisfaction with a number of the changes, there were a number of other revisions requested by Council and thus the policy was referred back to the Governance Advisory Committee.

At the September 11, 2018 Council meeting, Council reviewed further recommended changes from the GAC (i.e. the changes that were directed at the May 8, 2018 Council meeting). Overall, there was satisfaction with most of the proposed changes, but there was also concern with how surplus Council Priority Funding would be addressed at the end of a municipal term.

At the September 11, 2018 meeting, Council confirmed its desire to see surplus funding redistributed evenly to all members of Council on an annual basis; however, Council also expressed a desire to have policy mechanisms in place to ensure that during an election year in-coming Councillors would have access to some Priority Funding. Further, there was also direction to have surplus funds returned to General Revenue. Council ultimately referred the policy to Administration to make the necessary changes.

Enclosure 1 provides a marked-up copy of the policy with the changes noted and Enclosure 2 provides a clean copy of the policy with the revisions included.

**Council and Committee History**

Sept 11, 2018	THAT the main motion (2018/315) on the floor, along with the amendment (2018/317) be referred back to Administration to provide wording that would allow for budgetary allocation of funds in a general municipal election year to allocate 75% of the approved funding for the pre-nomination day Council Priority Fund Expenditures, with any of this portion of the allocated funds remaining as at nomination day being returned to general revenue, and the balance of the 25% of approved funding being allocated for the post-Organizational Meeting Council Priority Fund Expenditures for that year.
May 8, 2018	THAT policy GOV-032-030 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.
May 8, 2018	THAT effective January 1, 2019, budgeted Council Priority Funds be allocated evenly among all members of Council, except that the Mayor's Office will be given \$5,000 prior to the equal allocation of the remaining funds.
May 8, 2018	THAT policy GOV-001-032 be referred back to the Governance Advisory Committee to review and revise in consideration of the comments made by Council – to return to Council by Q3 2018.

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** The Municipal Government Act (MGA) s. 5 sets out that a municipality has the duties that are imposed on it by enactments and those that the municipality imposes on itself as a matter of policy.

**Interdepartmental:** Legislative and Legal Services has consulted Financial Services

**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a

**Communication Plan**

Provided that Council approves the policy, the revised version will be updated on the County's public website.

**Enclosures**

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| 1 | GOV-001-032 Council Priority Fund Policy (with proposed changes) |
| 2 | GOV-001-032 Council Priority Fund Policy (clean copy)            |