

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_May26\_2020**

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**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE****Community Policing Funding and History of School Resource Officers****Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with information on how funds are allocated within the Strathcona County RCMP Detachment to address community policing priorities, as well as the process for and history of funding School Resource Officers.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

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

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

**Report**

The Strathcona County RCMP Detachment does not allocate portions of their budget to specific functions such as community policing or School Resource Officers.

Strathcona County Detachment has 83 municipal and 14 provincially funded positions. The allocation of positions within a detachment is determined by taking into consideration the needs of the community as well as making use of those resources in the most efficient way possible. In large detachments, such as Strathcona County, the vast majority of positions will be allocated between General Duty and the General Investigation Section. Positions can be assigned to more specialized duties such as Traffic, Crime Reduction, Domestic Violence or School Resources. All of the duties that would form part of our normal service delivery can be assigned to specialized units but are also the responsibility of General Duty members. In the case of community policing or school resource officers the duties that they would normally carry out can, and often have been, assigned to the members on General Duty. There has not been a specific resource allocation, or tracking of funds, dedicated to these duties since they are the responsibility of all members posted at the detachment and form part of our core functions.

A search for the history of School Resource Officers in Strathcona County revealed there was no formal process, or records, for the creation of these positions. From the information obtained from past Detachment Commanders it was thought that the School Resource Officers would have come into existence in the early 90's. This would have been in line with what other detachments across the country were doing and would have been a proactive way to have police assigned to local schools to interact with students. There is no separate funding source for the School Resource Officer programs. The funding for those positions is congruent with the funding for all other policing positions in Strathcona County.

A decision to address service delivery within the RCMP lead to the reorganization of resources as well as an evaluation of the School Resource Officer program. Through internal consultation, as well as discussion with the two school board superintendents, a new delivery model was selected that addressed the issues faced by our local detachment as well as ensuring our officers remained within the schools. Community policing duties, and functions, have also been addressed and there will not be a service level decrease to Strathcona County.

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**Council and Committee History**

December 10, 2019      Council approved the following:  
THAT Administration request the Strathcona County RCMP detachment to prepare a report for Council by the end of the first quarter of 2020 on how funds are allocated within the Detachment to address community policing priorities, as well as the process for and history of funding School Resource Officers.

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** N/A

**Legislative/Legal:** N/A

**Interdepartmental:** N/A

**Master Plan/Framework:** N/A