

Priorities Committee Meeting_Feb09_2021

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Body Worn Cameras for RCMP Officers

Report Purpose

Provide Priorities Committee with information on the implications, cost and benefits of outfitting all RCMP members in the Strathcona County Detachment with body cameras.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

Report

In June 2020 the RCMP Commissioner agreed to begin outfitting officers with body cameras, a move that came in response to controversies connected to police use of force, accountability and systemic racism. The RCMP has stated that they will be implementing a national body-worn camera program for the RCMP to rebuild trust between police and Canadians, including racialized and Indigenous communities.

This has resulted in a pilot project that is now underway in Iqaluit, Nunavut that equips four on-duty RCMP officers per shift with the body cameras. Data from the pilot will help guide policy and strategy for a broader rollout to all Detachments. To facilitate this the federal government's fall economic update included \$238.5 million over the next six years, beginning in 2020-21, to outfit RCMP officers with body cameras. After that, the program will be sustained with \$50 million in annual funding.

Once the RCMP has concluded their pilot project they will have more information on the implications, including costs and benefits, of outfitting RCMP members within the Strathcona County Detachment. Superintendent Kalist, and County Administration, will continue to monitor the progress of the pilot project and any decisions made as a result of the pilot. Superintendent Kalist will also inform the RCMP "K" Division that our detachment, and community, would be willing to participate in any further pilot projects should the opportunity be available.

Council and Committee History

June 23, 2020 Council approved "THAT Administration work with the RCMP to explore the implications of, along with the cost and benefits of, outfitting all members in the Strathcona County detachment with body cameras."

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: N/A

Interdepartmental: N/A

Master Plan/Framework: N/A