
Subject: Amendment to By-Law 2019-79 Budget Planning

Report to: Corporate Services Committee

Report date: Monday, November 9, 2020

Recommendations

1. That By-law 2019-79 Budget Planning By-law **BE AMENDED** to include section 1.7. “Establish social determinants of health as a consideration in program and budget decisions”; and
2. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to address Council’s motion to include health equity impacts as a factor and principle in program and budget decisions.
- Item 11.1 in the minutes of Council meeting CL 9-2020 held June 25th, 2020 a motion was made to consider social determinants of health in future program and budget decisions and requests.
- The Budget Planning By-law was approved by Regional Council October 17th, 2019 with the purpose of formalizing best practices and principles used in the preparation of annual budgets and the proposed amendments are included in Appendix 1.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial impacts on 2020. Future financial impacts will be considered as part of the annual budget. The annual budget provides the financial resources for services offered by the Niagara Region for the upcoming year. Regional councillors review the draft budget as presented by staff including business cases for new programs and services and approve in-year budget amendments and adjustments. Any impacts on services to address health equity could affect the budget, potentially impacting the net levy and requisitions of future budget years.

Analysis

Staff has been implementing the strategic priorities included in the Council Strategic Implementation plan. One such priority is Healthy and Vibrant Community, focusing on fostering high quality of life through inclusive and affordable human services. By-law 2019-79 was approved to formalize best practices and principles for the preparation of the annual budgets. On June 25th at Council, councillors discussed health equity, as a result the following motion was approved:

That Niagara Region **COMMIT** to considering social determinants of health, including income, education, employment, early childhood development, food insecurity, housing, social exclusion and social safety network, health services, aboriginal status, gender, race, and disability, in all future program and budget decisions including revising the Region Budget By-Law Principles to include healthy communities;

This coincides with the Health Equity Informed Planning project that has been started by the Public Health department. Health Equity-Informed Planning will incorporate the use of Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) into program and project planning processes across the corporation to support Niagara to become one of the top 25 healthiest communities in Canada. The work of this project will result in changes to decision-making processes and support the implementation of other programs and projects across the corporation to enhance health and reduce health disparities between groups of people. By including social determinants of health as an objective in the by-law, the Health Impact Assessments can be considered in budget decisions.

In alignment with Council's motion, an update was made to PRINCIPLES, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES to add section 1.7. "Establish social determinants of health as a consideration in program and budget decisions."

Alternatives Reviewed

Not Applicable.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The update to the by-law included in the recommendation will progress the Healthy and Vibrant Community priority.

Other Pertinent Reports

CSD 65-2019 Budget Planning By-law

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This report was prepared in consultation with Tyler Potts, Senior Budget Analyst, and Cassandra Ogunniyi, Program Manager Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and reviewed by Helen Chamberlain, Director Financial Management and Planning.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Amended Budget Planning By-Law