

SYNOPSIS

Acceptance of the Amherst Police Sustainability Review Report and the Phase II Terms of Reference

The report provides information on the services and related costs for the Town as well as for policing costs in other municipalities in Nova Scotia. It also explores some of the drivers of increasing policing costs across the country.

One of the considerations in the original Terms of Reference was to request a proposal from the RCMP. The conclusion was reached that moving forward with a proposal from the RCMP was not the recommended course of action at this time as there were many risks associated with it including:

- a) There is uncertainty around costs for the RCMP as staff are moving forward with unionizing;
- b) We do not fully understand the potential impacts to service of moving from APD to RCMP;
- c) There has been at least one recent case where municipalities have voted to move from RCMP back to a municipal force and another where this alternative is being considered.

In addition, since the initial draft of the report, correspondence has been received from the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness that they are unable to accept any proposal at this time due to capacity concerns.

There were four options considered for next steps of the review and the recommended option is to not pursue a proposal from the RCMP, to allow staff and APD to work on increasing efficiencies as an on-going part of work, to see if there is opportunity to expand the areas of service offered by APD, and to revise the TOR for Phase II.

MOTION:

That Council accept the Amherst Police Sustainability Review report and the recommendation to move forward with option 2 which is to do an expanded internally focused review based on the revised terms of reference and not proceed with a proposal from the RCMP.