



County of Brant Council Report

To: The Mayor and Members of County of Brant Council
From: Heather Boyd, General Manager of Corporate Services
Date: April 28, 2026
Report #: RPT-0183-26
Subject: Update on Social Services Budget / Liaison Committee
Purpose: For Approval

Recommendation

That Staff Report RPT-0183-26 "Update on Social Services Budget / Liaison Committee" be received as information;

And that the City of Brantford be advised that a meeting of the Liaison Committee is not needed.

Strategic Plan Priority

Strategic Priority 1 - Economic and Financial Resilience

Impacts and Mitigation

Social Impacts

No social impacts are anticipated as a result of this report.

Environmental Impacts

No environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of this report.

Economic Impacts

The recommendation of this report is consistent with the 2026 budget amounts for both the County of Brant and the City of Brantford.

Report

Background

At its meeting on January 22, 2026, County of Brant Council passed the following resolution:

"That the County of Brant Council refer the 2026 Social Services budget to the City-County Liaison Committee with respect to the enhancements that were not included in the City Council approved budget"

This direction resulted from the fact that several staffing enhancements that were supported by the Social Services Committee (with City and County representation) and by County Council were not included in the budget approved by the City as the service provider. Council indicated that it was primarily seeking clarification as to why these enhancements did not move forward and requested a Liaison Committee meeting to discuss.

Following this direction, a further amendment to the Social Services Budget was made as part of the City of Brantford's Mayor's Budget presentation, which is in keeping with the Strong Mayor Power legislation. initial plans were made for the Liaison Committee to meet and County of Brant staff followed up with City of Brantford staff to discuss.

Analysis

Final Social Services Budget

The final 2026 Social Services Budget, included several of the adjustments that were supported by the Social Services Committee and County Council, including three (3) Housing Stability Workers and one (1) Community Initiatives Coordinator. This direction is fully reflected in both the City of Brantford and the County of Brant 2026 budgets. The approved 2026 Social Services Budget is as follows:



The outstanding difference between the budget that was supported by the Committee and the final approved budget is two enhancements, one (1) additional Housing Stability Worker and one (1) additional Community Initiatives Coordinators. The additional cost would be roughly \$197,000.

Social Service Budget Approval Process

The Social Services Budget (with final approval through the City of Brantford as the Service Provider) and the Paramedic Services Budget (with final approval through the County of Brant as the Service Provider) are both governed by respective Shared Services Agreement, which mirror processes for the respective Standing Committees and both Councils to have input into the budget prior to final approval. How both municipalities take this input and incorporate it into a final approved budget is different, notably with the City using multi-year budgeting and consideration of any enhancements separate from the base budget and the County using change requests as part of its Long Term Financial Plan. The Shared Services Agreement budget processes need to be updated, specifically to address the impact on Strong Mayor Powers on the budget process. County and City Finance Teams are working together to look at adjustments accordingly and will be presenting, as a minimum, revised timelines to be considered for the 2027 budget in light of the 2026 municipal election.

Summary and Recommendations

The 2026 Social Services Budget was presented, amended and adopted within the parameters of the Shared Services Agreement. It is staff’s position that there is little value in pursuing a liaison committee meeting at this time, recognizing that any enhancement to the budget would require additional funds that were not included in the County’s 2026 budget. Staff recommends that the County of Brant not further pursue a Liaison Committee meeting with regards to the 2026 Social Services Budget.

Attachments

None

Reviewed By

N/A

Copied To

Alison Newton, CAO
Heather Mifflin, Director of Finance, Treasurer
Heather Bailey, Manager of Budgets, Long Term Financial Planning

By-law and/or Agreement

By-law Required	No
Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and /or Clerk	No