

Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks - 2020 Update #2

Recommendation

That Inter-municipal and Regional Development Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That the City of Beaumont/City of Edmonton Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework, as set out in Attachment 1 of the October 9, 2020, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development report CR_7913, be approved.
2. That the Town of Devon/City of Edmonton Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework, as set out in Attachment 2 of the October 9, 2020, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development report CR_7913, be approved.

Executive Summary

City Administration has been working since 2018 to develop Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks to support integrated and strategic planning for the delivery of recreation services with neighbouring municipalities. City Council approved an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework agreement between the City of Edmonton and the City of St. Albert in January 2020. Two additional bi-lateral agreements, which are the focus of this report, have been finalized between the City of Edmonton and the City of Beaumont (Attachment 1) and the City of Edmonton and the Town of Devon (Attachment 2).

Because of legislative changes in 2009, which made Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks voluntary instead of mandatory, there was no interest among other neighbouring municipalities in establishing agreements with the City. Administration is not pursuing additional agreements at this time.

Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks align with the City's Intergovernmental Coordination service outcome and ensure that service delivery is optimized through relationships and partnerships.

Report

Changes to the *Municipal Government Act* in April 2018 required municipalities to undertake the development of Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks to support integrated and strategic planning for the delivery of intermunicipal services with neighbouring municipalities. Within the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, the

Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks were only required for the coordination of recreation services. This is because the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board manages the coordination of all other intermunicipal strategic planning activities. The updated *Municipal Government Act* required the City of Edmonton to develop eight Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with our immediate municipal neighbours, adopt them by bylaw and submit them to the Province by April 1, 2020.

On November 27, 2019, the Government of Alberta passed *Bill 25: Red Tape Reduction Act*, which further amended the *Municipal Government Act*. The amendment included changes to the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework guidelines making the establishment of the frameworks voluntary instead of mandatory.

As confirmed at the November 22, 2019, Inter-municipal and Regional Development Committee meeting, Administration continues to develop Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks in light of the value they bring to the City and its municipal partners. The frameworks establish procedures and expectations for future discussions regarding collaborative recreation service planning, funding and delivery between the City and its neighbouring municipalities.

To date, Administration has completed Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with:

- City of St. Albert (January 20, 2020, City Council meeting)
- City of Beaumont (Attachment 1)
- Town of Devon (Attachment 2)

As of March 2020, the following municipalities have informed Administration that they will decline the offer to complete an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework with the City of Edmonton:

- Fort Saskatchewan
- Leduc County
- Parkland County
- Strathcona County
- Sturgeon County

Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks

All Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks developed by Administration share the following foundational elements:

- Scope
- Governance structure
- Service inventory
- Analysis tool
- Service analysis
- Commitment to collect and share recreation data

The Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks also include a process, method and accountability structure for the partners to explore opportunities for joint recreation service delivery, funding and/or planning in the future.

The extent to which Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks improve recreation service quality, efficiency and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits will depend on the outcome of future conversations. The frameworks will oblige municipal partners to discuss and consider the collaborative recreation opportunities identified by each partner, and will include the tools and protocols required to encourage municipalities to reach an amicable resolution.

While negotiation is the expected and preferred route to resolving matters, a means of conflict and dispute resolution is also included in the Frameworks should the need arise.

Next Steps

The partners have agreed to create a Technical Working Group within 90 days of adopting each framework. The Technical Working Groups will establish and be governed by a terms of reference that will address, at a minimum, the membership, roles, responsibilities, decision-making authority, record keeping and reporting expectations. Members of the Technical Working Groups will report to their respective Councils on an as-needed basis.

Administration will not pursue the completion of Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with our neighbouring municipalities who have informed us that they do not wish to proceed.

Public Engagement

Public engagement was not undertaken as part of the Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks process as the work addresses the development of a high-level governance framework that is not aligned to a particular project or funding model.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): Edmonton Region is a catalyst for industry and business growth.			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
Cooperation in the Edmonton Region is expanded and formalized	Number of formalized relationships with Edmonton's neighbouring eight	5 Agreements (2018-2020)	10 Agreements between 2018 - 2023

	municipalities and other regional partners		
Shared Investment for Shared Benefit in the Edmonton Region is advanced	Number of projects/services initiated with a cost-sharing model	1 Project (2018-2020)	10 Projects between 2018 - 2023

Risk Assessment

Risk Element	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Score (with current mitigations)	Current Mitigations	Potential Future Mitigations
Political Influences	Intermunicipal collaboration on recreation may be more challenging without a proactive governance structure to facilitate and encourage proactive joint planning.	4 - Likely	3 - Major	12 - Medium	Continue to collaborate on existing initiatives on an ad hoc basis.	Work together to develop an alternate framework for regional collaboration around recreation opportunities.

Attachment

1. Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework - City of Beaumont & City of Edmonton
2. Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework - Town of Devon & City of Edmonton

Others Reviewing this Report

- M. Persson, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services
- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- G. Cebryk, Deputy City Manager, City Operations
- J. Meliefste, Acting Deputy City Manager, Integrated Infrastructure Services
- R. Smyth, Deputy City Manager, Citizen Services
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor