

September 24, 2024

Chair David Anderson
Social Services Committee
County of Wellington

Dear Chair Anderson,

RE: 2025 Budget Confirmation Guideline

In follow up to the letter you received regarding Guelph's 2025 budget confirmation from CAO Scott Stewart on March 28, 2024, I am writing to underscore the importance of upcoming budget discussions.

Guelph's 2025 budget was adopted as part of the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget (MYB) at a net tax levy increase over 2024 of 9.80 per cent. Affordability is a critical issue in our community, as highlighted in the City's recent [satisfaction survey results](#) where housing and affordability were highlighted as top of mind issues impacting quality of life in Guelph.

On February 28, I issued a [Mayoral Direction](#) directing staff to prepare an update to the adopted 2025 operating and capital budget with a property tax impact of no more than four (4) per cent. The property tax impact must be split proportionately between the City and local boards and shared services agencies.

What does this mean for you?

2025 Budget Confirmation

To deliver a budget within the Mayoral Direction, I respectfully request that the County of Wellington Social Services seriously consider ways to mitigate their increase to no greater than \$1,475,601.

A portion of estimated assessment growth is allocated to the County of Wellington to accommodate growth within the City of Guelph in the amount of \$320,346 for 2025. This would bring the net budget impact after assessment growth to \$1,155,255.

All local boards and shared services agencies are receiving similar notifications. You are respectfully requested to adhere to the Mayoral Direction as you work to update your 2025 budget for confirmation.

Budget Update and Confirmation Process

For the 2025 budget update and confirmation process, the City is separating the budget adoption process into two phases: City budget adoption and local boards and shared services agencies budget adoption. Local boards and shared services agencies will present their 2025 budget update to Council for adoption in January 2025, after the City's budget is formally adopted. The City will share more information about the detailed budget schedule in the months ahead.

The City requests that all local boards and shared services agencies plan to engage with the community during their respective Board budget review, prior to final Board approval. New this year, City staff will look to amplify the public delegation opportunities at your public budget board/committee meetings in response to Council's feedback from this past budget process. Please keep us informed as you map out your budget processes and meeting dates.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Tara Baker at tara.baker@guelph.ca.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



Mayor Cam Guthrie

c. Mayor Cam Guthrie, Councillor Linda Busuttil, City of Guelph Executive Team, City Treasurer, Tara Baker, City Clerk, Stephen O'Brien, County of Wellington CAO, Scott Wilson

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