



Committee of the Whole

Meeting Date: April 22, 2025

Submitted by: Paul Shipway, General Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Innovation

Subject: County/City Liaison Committee (CCLC) Summary Report

BACKGROUND:

On October 13, 2015, the Council of the Corporation of the County of Middlesex passed By-law No. 6745, being a by-law to authorize and approve a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between the Corporation of the County of Middlesex and the Corporation of the City of London to set forth the terms and understanding between the County and the City for establishing a joint liaison committee comprised of elected officials to discuss and consider matters of mutual concern the County/City Liaison Committee – CCLC).

The Middlesex County appointments to the CCLC for the 2022-2026 term of Council are:

- Middlesex County Warden (rotating basis)
- Councillor Aina DeViet
- Councillor Colin Grantham

ANALYSIS:

On April 4, 2025, the [CCLC Agenda](#) included discussion on the following items:

- Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) Cost Apportionment Agreements
- Advanced Care Rapid Response Unit
- Regional Transit
- Public Health Funding - Middlesex-London Health Unit
- Regional Economic Development
- Election Readiness

The April 4, 2025 meeting of the County/City Liaison Committee (CCLC) reflected the ongoing commitment of both Middlesex County and the City of London to meaningful collaboration on matters of mutual interest. Matters requiring further consideration by Council include:

Public Health Funding

The Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) delivers provincially mandated public health services to over 520,000 residents in Middlesex County and the City of London. Funded primarily by the Province, the City, and the County, MLHU is currently experiencing funding pressures due to the Province's cap on increases to its share at 1%, despite inflation and population growth.

The expected cost-sharing ratio of 75:25 has shifted to 71:29, and MLHU requested a 6% increase in municipal contributions for 2025, which would further shift the ratio to 70:30. MLHU's per-capita funding remains among the lowest in Ontario—\$69/person compared to a provincial average of \$87.

To avoid further service reductions, MLHU requested continued joint advocacy from municipal partners and is urging the Province to adopt a new, population-based funding formula that ensures equitable, sustainable public health funding across Ontario.

On April 4, 2025, the CCLC passed the following resolution:

THAT the following actions be taken with respect to Public Health Funding:

- a) that the County/City Liaison Committee members recommend to their respective Councils that the joint advocacy approach to shared costs BE CONTINUED; and
- b) that the verbal update from Deputy Warden A. DeViet regarding the Public Health Funding and the communication dated January 21, 2025 from the Middlesex-London Health Unit BE RECEIVED.

Regional Collaboration

The CCLC reaffirmed the strategic importance of regional collaboration in supporting shared priorities. Discussions on regional transit, economic development, and election readiness all reflected the growing need to work across jurisdictions to meet the demands of an increasingly interconnected region.

A key point of discussion was Integrated Transportation Infrastructure, which emerged as a potential area for shared, coordinated advocacy. This dialogue was prompted by several recent developments, including:

- A request from Middlesex Centre to the City of London for additional wastewater allocation;
- Comments from members of London City Council regarding the need for a broader regional infrastructure review;
- A public media cycle in which the Warden emphasized the importance of County priorities and the role of local municipal decision-making;

- A resolution by London City Council (March 25, 2025) directing the Mayor and Civic Administration to engage with neighbouring municipalities and the Province regarding a potential ring road and integrated regional transportation network.

County representatives at the CCLC acknowledged that discussion on regionally significant infrastructure may be warranted—provided it is approached in a manner that upholds the County’s values, planning framework, and local autonomy. Any such initiative—particularly one as complex and far-reaching as a regional ring road—must be provincially funded, with full respect for municipal boundaries, protection of agricultural lands, and consideration of existing infrastructure investments.

To support Council's continued leadership in these discussions and ensure a consistent, principled advocacy position, it is proposed that future engagement on this matter be generally guided by the following framework:

- Protection of rural identity and small urban communities;
- Preservation of prime agricultural land and the viability of the agri-food sector;
- Respect for the County’s land use planning framework and Official Plan, with responsible growth guided by local planning processes in collaboration with our local municipalities;
- Recognition of the County’s role in shaping decisions that directly impact County residents;
- Collaboration to identify shared regional transportation and infrastructure priorities;
- No support for any discussions related to annexation or amalgamation.





This framework reinforces Middlesex County’s commitment to responsible, community-driven growth—growth that reflects local context, safeguards Middlesex County’s character, and aligns with Council’s strategic objectives.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

No direct financial implications are associated with this report at this time. Any future financial considerations arising from continued regional engagement or advocacy efforts will be brought forward to Council for review and consideration as required.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:

This report aligns with the following Strategic Focus, Goals, or Objectives:

Strategic Focus	Goals	Objectives
Cultivating Community Vitality 	Advance a diverse, healthy, and engaged community across Middlesex County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and support community wellness Innovate social and community services Attract, retain, and engage youth in our community Champion and encourage active transportation and public transit opportunities
Connecting Through Infrastructure 	Ensure communities are built on a sustainable foundation that is connected and thriving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and advocate, through partnerships, the construction of scalable, equitable broadband infrastructure, recognizing our unserved and underserved areas Commit to a sound asset management strategy to maintain and fund critical infrastructure Use County infrastructure in an innovative way to provide a seamless service experience for residents
Strengthening Our Economy 	Encourage a diverse and robust economic base throughout the county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support opportunities to create a stronger and sustainable agricultural sector Create an environment that enables the attraction and retention of businesses, talent, and investments Attract visitors to Middlesex County Support the development and prosperity of downtown core areas in Middlesex County
Promoting Service Excellence 	Innovate and transform municipal service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipate and align municipal service delivery to emerging needs and expectations Strengthen our advocacy and lobbying efforts with other government bodies Collaborate with strategic partners to leverage available resources and opportunities

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Middlesex County Council receive the County/City Liaison Committee (CCLC) Summary Report for information;

AND THAT Middlesex County Council continue to support a joint advocacy approach to sustainable public health funding in partnership with Middlesex-London Health Unit and the City of London;

AND THAT Middlesex County Council endorse the engagement and advocacy framework for regional infrastructure collaboration as outlined within this report.