



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Melissa Ryan, CPA, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Subject: Update-City of Windsor 2026 Budget-Residential Services Homes (RSH) Per Diem Rate

Report #: 2026-0304-FIN-R07-MR

Purpose

To report back to County Council, as directed on December 3, 2025, regarding the City of Windsor's 2026 Budget decision as it relates to the Residential Services Homes (RSH) Program per diem rate increase.

Background

As part of the 2026 Budget process, County Council approved the inclusion of \$309,620 (April 1 to December 31, 2026) to fund a potential increase in the RSH per diem rate from \$60 to \$65 per resident per day. This approval was conditional upon the City of Windsor approving and funding the same increase within its 2026 Budget.

The provision was included as a risk mitigation measure due to uncertainty surrounding potential Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) funding for 2026–2027. The intent was to ensure the continued financial viability of RSH providers and maintain the County's established 226-bed capacity.

Discussion

The City of Windsor has confirmed the following:

- The City has approved an increase to the RSH per diem rate to \$65, effective April 1, 2026.

- The City will continue to provide the County with \$2.4 million in HPP funding for the period April 2026 to March 2027 to support the County's homelessness programs.

This confirms that the condition set by County Council has been met, namely, that the City has approved and is funding the same per diem increase within its own 2026 Budget (on City levy).

As Council is aware, RSH providers have raised ongoing concerns regarding the financial sustainability of operations due to inflationary pressures, wage increases (including minimum wage impacts), food and utility cost escalation, and higher mortgage renewal rates. The increase to \$65 per diem will assist in improving financial viability and stabilizing service levels across the Region.

Administration will continue to monitor provider sustainability and funding allocations through the HPP Working Group and future budget processes.

Financial Implications

The County's share of the per diem increase was previously approved as part of the 2026 Budget.

The increase from \$60 to \$65 effective April 1, 2026 resulted in an approved allocation of \$309,620 in municipal levy funding for the April to December 2026 period.

With the City now confirming approval and funding of the same increase within its 2026 Budget, no additional County funding is required beyond what has already been approved.

Consultations

Linda Higgins, Manager, Intergovernmental Funding, City of Windsor

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
<input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results <input type="checkbox"/> Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share	<input type="checkbox"/> Being an Employer with Impact <input type="checkbox"/> A Government Working for the People <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promoting Transparency and Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County <input type="checkbox"/> Harmonizing Action for Growth <input type="checkbox"/> Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2026-0304-FIN-R07-MR, Update-City of Windsor 2026 Budget-Residential Services Homes (RSH) Per Diem Rate as information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Ryan

Melissa Ryan, CPA, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
N/A	N/A