



**Meeting Date:** January 10, 2024

**Submitted by:** Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services

**Report No:** CMS-10-2023

**Subject:** Ice Allocation Policy – Project Charter

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**Recommendation:**

THAT Report CMS-10-2023, re: Ice Allocation Policy – Project Charter be received;

AND THAT the Project Charter and Project Schedule appended to Report CMS-10-2023 be approved.

**Purpose:**

To seek Council's approval of the Project Charter for the Ice Allocation Policy (IAP) Update project and endorsement of the identified objectives and deliverables.

**Background:**

The existing IAP was adopted in 2011, prior to the opening of the Komoka Wellness Centre. Over the years staff have looked to revise the policy, however, to do so would mean a significant shift to how ice is allocated across all the major user groups. With the needs of our user groups changing and registrations increasing in youth ice sports, the demand for a fair allocation of ice is more important than ever.

Although sports like minor hockey are in the decline overall in Ontario, southwestern Ontario continues to have a high demand for ice. Middlesex Centre has three ice pads. The Komoka Wellness Centre has two ice pads that are typically open year-round and the Ilderton Arena ice pad operates from mid-August to the beginning of April. Hours of operation are seven days a week and ice is available from 6:00 a.m. to midnight each day. This equates to 150 prime-time hours each week across the three ice pads. Currently prime time is defined as Monday to Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday's from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

In 2011, the municipality reached a long-term license agreement with the Elgin-Middlesex Canucks that provides the club with approximately 29 hours of prime-time ice per week at the Komoka Wellness Centre. This accounts for 15% of available prime-time ice at the Komoka Wellness Centre. Adult ice rentals currently account for a little over 15% of prime-time ice. This leaves minor sport associations such as Ilderton Minor Hockey, Ilderton Skating Club, and Mount Brydges Minor Hockey (which services Delaware, Kilworth & Komoka-area youth) to share the remaining 70% of prime-time ice. Through the CSMP consultation, all groups indicated their need to increase their access to ice time. As the population of Middlesex Centre grows, so do registration rates. Priority needs to be given to those youth who reside in Middlesex Centre to ensure equitable and adequate access to ice within their own community.

### **Analysis:**

The Municipality of Middlesex Centre is looking to revise the current Ice Allocation Policy (IAP) to help guide the municipality in the equitable allocation of ice to various user groups based on their residency and participation rates with a focus on prioritizing a 'youth first' access to ice time.

Completing this project meets the priorities identified in the municipality's Strategic Plan 2021-2026 such as being an engaged community and a responsible & responsive municipal government. This project also aligns with a priority recommendation in the 2023-2027 Community Services Master Plan (CSMP): "Update the current Ice Allocation Policy to prioritize a 'youth first' access to ice time focusing on those who reside in Middlesex Centre."

The goal of the project is to engage with the major ice users to develop a new policy that assists the municipality in the equitable allocation of ice to various user groups based on their residency and participation rates with a focus on prioritizing a 'youth first' access to ice time.

The project objectives are as followed:

1. Ensure an equitable and inclusive policy.
2. Establish clear procedures for the allocation and use of municipal ice surfaces.
3. Ensure effective and efficient use of facilities.

The project will see two key outputs:

1. A needs assessment that identifies the needs and gaps ice users face when accessing ice time.
2. A revised and up-to-date Ice Allocation Policy that sets a clear procedure and process in the allocation of ice time that will take effect for the 2024/2025 Fall/Winter ice season.

Ancillary, the project will:

1. Promote healthy living and access to facilities for all residents of Middlesex Centre.
2. Recognizing the role municipal arenas play in the development of youth ice sports.
3. Garner the support of local organizations to ensure the residents of Middlesex Centre have a fair and equitable access to ice time.

The project looks to complete the following deliverable:

1. Deliver a revised and up to date Ice Allocation Policy that sets a clear procedure and process in the allocation of ice time beginning in the 2024/2025 Fall/Winter ice season that guides and supports municipality's efforts in providing equitable and fair access to ice time that meets the needs of Middlesex Centre residents.

### **Financial Implications:**

As this project is being completed internally, external costs to complete the project will be minimal if not zero. Staff time to complete this project will be tracked and reported to the project sponsor.

### **Strategic Plan:**

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Engaged Community
- Sustainable Infrastructure and Services
- Responsive Municipal Government

### **Attachments:**

- 1) Ice Allocation Policy – Project Charter dated December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- 2) Ice Allocation Policy – Project Schedule