



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**TO:** Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee

**FROM:** Malcolm Hunt, Director of Planning and Development Services  
Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

**MEETING DATE:** October 10, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Report PLHDJSSC13-002  
10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan and the Action Plan  
2014-2018

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## **PURPOSE**

A report to provide the Joint Services Steering Committee with the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan and Action Plan 2014-2018, for the City and County of Peterborough.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Joint Services Steering Committee endorse the recommendations outlined in Report PLHDJSSC13-002 dated October 10, 2013, of the Director of Planning and Development Services and the Director of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That the presentation by Tim Welch Consulting on the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan and the Action Plan 2014-2018 be received.
- b) That the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan be endorsed.
- c) That the Action Plan 2014-2018 be utilized by municipal staff and agencies as a guide to workplans and budget priorities in support of housing and homelessness, and
- d) That a verbal update from staff about the results of the Public Information Session on October 2, 2013 be received for information.

## **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Budget and financial implications associated with commitments will be addressed through the annual budget process beginning in 2014.

The City of Peterborough 2014 Operating Budget request contains two proposals: \$200,000 for a new City/County Rent Supplement Program (offset by revenue of \$100,000 from the provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative); and \$100,000 for a feasibility study for Brock Mission's Murray Street building (offset by a draw of \$91,500 from City reserves in the Social Services and Housing Divisions and a contribution of \$8,500 from the County of Peterborough).

Financial implications associated with new or renewed revenue from senior government programs and the terms of the City's participation in these programs would be reported to Council for consideration and direction, as opportunities arise.

## **BACKGROUND**

The 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan ("Plan") (Appendix A) for the Peterborough region presents 20 commitments in four theme areas. The Plan has been shaped by direction from City and County Councils, input from the community, and comments from Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). The Action Plan 2014-2018 ("Action Plan") (Appendix B) identifies specific steps for the City, as Service Manager for Housing and Social Services, for the next five years.

The Housing Services Act, 2011 requires the City of Peterborough, in its role as Municipal Service Manager, to have a local plan in place as of January 1, 2014. The plan must address provincial priorities in housing and homelessness which include achieving better outcomes for people, and fostering their independence and participation in the community.

The Plan was developed using an inclusive process that included municipal staff, community representatives and volunteers, people who use services and local agency staff. A Steering Committee and a Project Team, comprised of staff from the City, County and a Township, guided the work of a consultant, Tim Welch Consulting (TWC).

## **10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan (“Plan”)**

The Plan provides a vision for housing and homelessness programs and services in the Peterborough region. It will help guide decisions about priorities for provincial, federal and municipal funding. The Plan introduces the idea of a housing and homelessness service system, along a continuum of services for people who are most disadvantaged. It proposes ways to make the system better for people, and more supportive of individual self-sufficiency. The Plan emphasizes the importance of collaboration and consultation to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

The direction provided in the Plan will influence the work to be undertaken by City staff, community partners and agencies over many years. Progress on the Plan will be monitored over ten years, and revisions may be proposed based on periodic reviews.

## **Action Plan 2014-2018 (Action Plan)**

The Action Plan 2014-2018 (“Action Plan”) is an implementation plan. As a complementary document to the Plan, the Action Plan is a “living document”. The established framework for the Action Plan will remain but the content, i.e. action steps, will be frequently edited and updated. Any changes related to specific actions will be determined based on influences including funding, community partnerships, and research.

The Action Plan will guide workplans for 2014 and for the subsequent four year period. It identifies lead divisions and a checklist that will inform Housing and Social Services divisional work plans between 2014 and 2018.

A comprehensive review of progress on all actions will be conducted beginning in 2017. A second Action Plan for the next five year period will incorporate the results of the review and propose appropriate actions.

## **Research and Consultation**

The Plan is based on quantitative and qualitative research. The Housing and Homelessness Needs Assessment 2013 (“Needs Assessment”) provides an analysis of quantitative data (i.e. market and service statistics) and presents a local profile and context for the Plan.

Consultation with community members and municipal staff occurred between November 2012 and June 2013, using methods suited to the breadth and scope of the Plan. The consultants conducted thirty key informant interviews and organized four round table sessions, four focus groups with people with lived experience, two presentations at Township Council meetings, and two public meetings about the draft Plan. Presentations were also made at various committee meetings, including twice at the Peterborough County Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers Association.

This resulted in qualitative information which was incorporated in the Needs Assessment, and suggested the themes for the Plan.

Three communication bulletins described the process and the milestones as the Plan began to take shape. These bulletins were sent to Councillors, community members, local agencies and committees, and were posted on the City's website at [www.peterborough.ca](http://www.peterborough.ca).

Two City-community committees (i.e. Affordable Housing Action Committee and Homelessness Support Services Coordinating Committee) provided advice at meetings over the past eleven months. Members of these "community sounding boards" helped with the content of the Plan, through their feedback at meetings, emails and phone conversations.

### **Draft Plan Feedback**

In June 2013, Council considered the draft Plan (City Council Report PLHD13-001 dated June 3, 2013) and it was presented to the community on June 6, and sent to the MMAH on June 10. The draft Plan was made available to the public on the City's website at [www.peterborough.ca](http://www.peterborough.ca) and copies were circulated at meetings.

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Linda Jeffrey provided comments on September 6, 2013 (see Appendix C). The Minister observed that Peterborough's Plan "is based on local needs, incorporates a local vision, proposes some unique local approaches, and recognizes that homelessness is an area of particular concern."

City Councillors and representatives of County Council were offered an opportunity to discuss the Plan with staff before it was finalized. As well, as per Council's direction, a public information session about the Plan was held on October 2, 2013.

Key changes from the earlier draft, include:

- Sections have been added on Performance Measures, Financial and Staff Resources, Building on Strengths, and Connection with Related Local Plans;
- Provincial interests are addressed more directly - specifically housing needs of victims of domestic violence and people with disabilities;
- Each of the 20 commitments has been refined to clarify intentions and/or reflect comments received;
- The first theme is now "Providing People-Centred Services" to emphasize on-going collaboration and consultation; and
- Direct quotes from community members from the June 6 meeting have been added.

## SUMMARY

This report presents the final 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, and Action Plan 2014-2018 for Council consideration. Immediate budget implications will be addressed through the City's 2014 Operating Budget process. The Housing Services Act, 2011 requires Municipal Service Managers to have a local plan in place as of January 1, 2014. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing provided comments in September. Key informant interviews, a comprehensive needs assessment and community consultations provided the themes and general direction for the Plan. Collaboration among the City and its community partners will be required to achieve the commitments and vision of the Plan.

Submitted by,

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Attachments:  
Appendix A: 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan  
Appendix B: Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2014-2018  
Appendix C: Minister Jeffrey's Letter to Mayor Bennett (September 6, 2013)