



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee

From: Malcolm Hunt, Director of Planning and Development Services

Meeting Date: March 12, 2015

Subject: Report PLHDJSSC15-002
Housing is Fundamental 2014 – Information Report

Purpose

A report providing information to Joint Services Steering Committee regarding “*Housing is Fundamental*” 2014, the Affordable Housing Action Committee’s annual publication.

Recommendation

That Joint Services Steering Committee endorse the recommendation outlined in Report PLHDJSSC15-002 dated March 12, 2015, of the Director of Planning and Development Services, as follows:

That the presentation and report *Housing is Fundamental* 2014 of the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC) be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget and financial implications arising from this recommendation.

Background

Housing is Fundamental is published annually by the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC). It is prepared by the Community Education Sub-Committee of AHAC, which researches issues affecting affordable housing and educates the community. This is the ninth consecutive year of publication.

Distribution Plan

Housing is Fundamental 2014 report is available online at www.peterborough.ca/housing. Regular distribution to other municipalities and community groups will be in March 2015 (delayed from previous years due to the municipal election). In September 2014 there was limited circulation of the report to:

- Members of City Council
- Registered candidates in the City's municipal election (as background information before the All Candidates Debate on October 16, 2014)
- County Clerk – for County Councillors (included in the County Council's "Correspondence Report" on October 15, 2014)
- Township Clerks – for members of Township Councils and registered candidates in their municipal elections
- Various community groups and agencies

Housing is Fundamental 2014 Highlights

The report highlighted the new municipal Housing Choice Rent Supplement program, the warming room and the Homelessness Coordinated Response Team (HCRT). These programs and services help support people who experience homelessness or housing insecurity in the city and county of Peterborough. The report acknowledges successful community partnerships and the support of City and County Councils.

2011 Statistics Canada data was used to provide a current picture of Peterborough with comparisons to similar municipalities in Ontario.

Highlights include:

- 50% of renter households cannot afford the median rental shelter costs of \$850 per month.
- The labour force is characterized by 25% part-time workers. This is higher than Barrie (20.9%), Guelph (20.7%), Hamilton (21.9%), Kingston (22.1%), London (23.0%) and Oshawa (19.5%).
- Actual wages remain below the rate of Peterborough's annual living wage of \$27,885.

High part-time employment and low median incomes contributed to high numbers of people experiencing "core housing need". This analysis, along with reporting on Social Assistance rates, shelter expenses and other related data, provides a context for why housing remains is a key social determinant of health. With the comparisons in mind, research showed that Peterborough is not unlike many other Ontario communities.

AHAC Recommendations

AHAC makes the following recommendations:

- Monitor progress outcomes of the 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan
- Develop strategies to protect Peterborough’s social housing stock as federal funding agreements conclude
- Promote incentives to developers to build rental housing
- Preserve and enhance municipal funding for rent supplements
- Ensure appropriate distribution of Housing Stability Funds across the spectrum of low incomes households

Summary

The Affordable Housing Action Committee will continue in its advisory role to the Joint Services Steering Committee and as a “community sounding board” for the actions of Peterborough’s 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan (“Plan”). Together, AHAC’s Housing is Fundamental reports and the City’s progress reports on the Plan will provide local data and context to help meet the need of City and County residents.

Submitted by,

Malcolm Hunt
Director, Planning and Development Services

Susan Bacque
Manager, Housing Division

Contact Name:

Michelle Longhurst
Housing Programs Assistant, Housing Division
Phone: 705-742-7777 Extension 1499
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755
Fax: 705-742-5218
E-Mail: m.longhurst@peterborough.ca

Attachments:

Appendix A – Housing is Fundamental 2014