



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee

From: Jeffrey Humble, Director, Planning & Development Services

Meeting Date: February 8, 2018

Subject: Report PLHDJSSC18-001
10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan: Five-Year Review

Purpose

A report to provide information about the Five-Year review process for Peterborough's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan with proposed changes to the committee structure.

Recommendation

That Joint Services Steering Committee endorse the recommendation outlined in Report PLHDJSSC18-001 dated February 8, 2018, of the Director, Planning and Development Services, as follows:

That the Five-Year Review process for the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan with proposed changes to the committee structure and presentation be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications as a result of this report.

Background

The Housing Services Act 2011, requires the City of Peterborough, in its role as Service Manager, to have a 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan (the "Plan"). Service

Managers are also required to review and update their plans at least once every five years. Service Manager Housing and Homelessness Plans must address matters of provincial interest and be consistent with policy statements issued under the Housing Services Act.

Provincial Priorities

Following the update to the provincial Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy in 2016, the Ministry of Housing released a Policy Statement on Service Manager Housing and Homelessness Plans. This directed Service Managers to align their Housing and Homelessness Plans with updated provincial priorities. The mandatory Five-Year Review (the “Review”) of Housing and Homelessness Plans must reflect the following provincial priorities:

- Having a system for engagement and outcomes measurement,
- Having a goal to end homelessness using a Housing First philosophy,
- Ensuring systems coordination across human services, including with Local Health Integration Networks
- Engagement, coordination and collaboration with indigenous peoples, organizations and communities, and
- A commitment to people-centred service that is inclusive, culturally appropriate and responds to a broad range of community needs, including those of youth, seniors, people with disabilities, people who have mental health needs and addictions, and victims of domestic violence.

Timeline and Provincial Guidelines

Municipal elections in 2018 will put time constraints on local Councils. The Ministry of Housing (the Ministry) recognizes these limitations and has provided clarification that Five-Year Reviews must be initiated by January 1, 2019. The Ministry has also committed to providing a “Guide for Five-Year Review” in January 2018. As of the deadline for this report, this guiding document had not been received.

The deadline for completion of Reviews has not yet been communicated to Service Managers. Staff are prepared to have the bulk of the Review completed in 2018. Timelines and direction from the Ministry will be incorporated into staff planning tools when they are received.

Policy Context

The Five-Year Review of Housing and Homelessness Plans will occur within a broader context of political and policy shifts at municipal, provincial and federal levels. For the City and County, the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager agreement is up for

renewal in 2018. At the provincial level, significant changes are proposed for the delivery of both social assistance and social housing, but it is unclear how much change will occur before the writ is dropped for the provincial election. At the federal level, the National Housing Strategy released in 2016 promises reinvestment in social housing and investment in housing assistance for low-income households across Canada. How these programs will be funded and delivered is being negotiated by the province and the federal government.

Other planning processes are also underway at the municipal level – reviews of both City and County Official Plans as well as the development of the Peterborough Community Wellbeing Plan. These are potential opportunities to get input about housing and homelessness at broader community consultations, and to strengthen the connections between planning processes.

Plan for the Five-Year Review

The Five-Year Review is an update to the Plan – not a complete re-imagining of the Plan. As such, there are foundational elements that will not change as a result of the Review.

The vision statement for the Plan, that “we will eliminate long-term homelessness and ensure quality housing that all residents can afford by engaging those in need, enhancing community and partner involvement and leveraging resources from the community, the private sector and government” will remain the same. It has been a helpful touchstone over the past four years and is well-aligned with provincial priorities.

The 20 commitments in the Plan will be reviewed to understand what has been achieved, what is in progress, and what commitments need to be changed or updated. New outcome statements could be developed. Access to new local and provincial data sources are improving the ability to measure and understand outcomes in housing and homelessness work.

The Needs Assessment conducted in 2013 will not be replicated. New and existing data sources will be leveraged for the Review. New data sources include Peterborough’s 2016 and 2018 Homelessness Enumerations, and data collected locally through the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT). The SPDAT captures needs and vulnerabilities of clients using the homelessness system. In addition, existing program and system statistics that have been collected for the annual Progress Reports will be compiled for the Review.

Consultation for the Review is intended to reach community stakeholder groups that were under-represented in the development of the Plan, including, youth, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities and seniors. Targeted consultations with stakeholder individuals and groups who were consulted in the development of the Plan are also proposed.

Changes to Committees

Changes to the housing and homelessness committee structure are proposed to better align the work of committees with the work in the Plan. This approach is similar to the committee structure that was developed to coordinate the Age-Friendly Plan. Appendix A is a draft schematic of the proposed committee structure.

Staff consulted with members of the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC), the Homelessness Support Services Coordination Committee (HSSCC), and the internal Housing and Homelessness Plan Project Team. All three committees will be directly affected by these changes.

It is proposed that a new committee, the “Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee” would be established to oversee the work of the Plan. Membership would include City and County Councillors, Chairs of the proposed working groups, and members from the former Project Team. In addition, it would include representation from people with lived experience and priority populations as identified in the Review.

The working groups are proposed to be aligned with the themes of the Plan. In keeping with the people-centred foundation of the Plan, one working group would have a mandate to collaborate on a coordinated system founded on people-centred principles. The focus areas for the other three working groups will be further developed through the review, but they are currently proposed to focus on:

1. Emergency responses to homelessness;
2. Ongoing housing subsidies and supports to prevent homelessness; and
3. Building affordable rental housing and homeownership (capital funding and down payment assistance).

In November 2016, AHAC voted to approve a motion to support a draft revised committee structure, based on the themes of the Plan. AHAC had their final meeting, and ceased its activities in December 2016. Former AHAC members will have an opportunity to participate in the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee and/or one of its working groups.

HSSCC will remain an active committee, with the goal of transitioning their committee structure into the proposed working groups. HSSCC has participated in preliminary discussions of the Review, and will continue to work with City staff through the transition.

Terms of Reference for the Housing and Homelessness Plan Advisory Committee and its working groups will be developed. Included in these terms will be requirements for representation from priority populations, and the ability to be responsive to emerging needs and opportunities through time-limited ad hoc project committees.

It is proposed that the revised Terms of Reference for the Housing and Homeless Advisory Committee would replace Terms of Reference of AHAC that is currently contained in the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager Agreement between the City and County. This agreement is due to be renewed by December 31, 2018.

Progress Report 2017

Significant staff resources will be dedicated to the Five-Year Review in 2018. As a transition year, it is proposed that the Progress Report for 2017 will look at the progress made to date, and be included in the Review as a summary of achievements.

Summary

The Five-Year Review is a prescribed requirement under the Housing Services Act. It is also an important opportunity to re-establish priorities for helping vulnerable people in a changing sector, with more change on the horizon. An update report on the Review will be provided at a Joint Services Steering Committee meeting in September 2018.

Submitted by,

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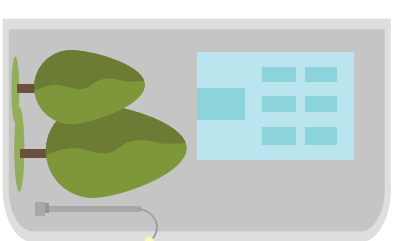
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Attachment:

Appendix A – Proposed Committee Structure to Support the Housing and Homelessness Plan

Committee Structure Supporting Housing and Homelessness Planning

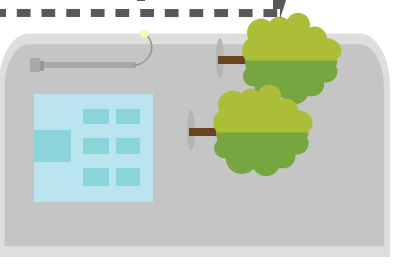


City Council

Joint Services Steering Committee

Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee

City & County Councillor Chairs • Representatives • Working Group Chairs



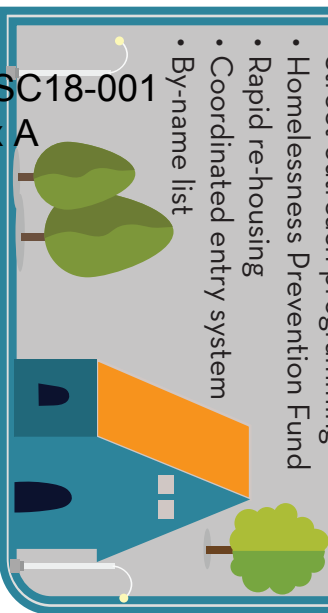
County Council

Emergency Housing Responses

Homelessness

Emergency Shelters

- Homelessness prevention and diversion
- Emergency shelters
- Street outreach programming
- Homelessness Prevention Fund
- Rapid re-housing
- Coordinated entry system
- By-name list

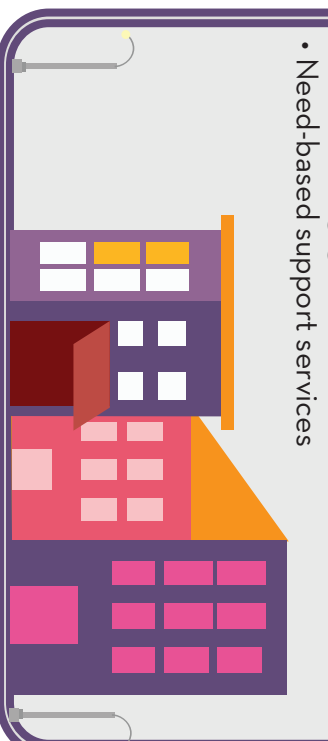


Housing Subsidies & Support Services

Housing Stability

Social & Supportive Housing

- Social housing
- Housing stability
- Landlord engagement
- Need-based support services

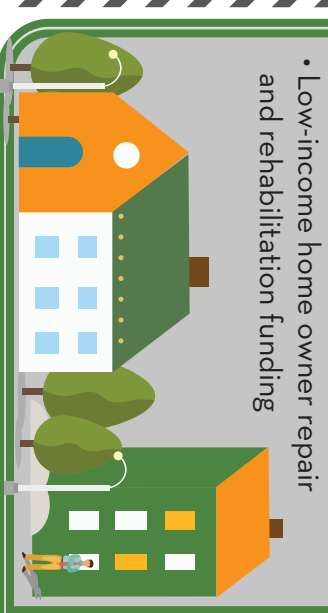


Building Housing Affordability

Affordable Rental Housing

Affordable Home Ownership

- Affordable housing capital funding
- Home Ownership down payment assistance
- Low-income home owner repair and rehabilitation funding



PLHDJSSC18-001
Appendix A

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People Centred Service System

- Committed to inclusiveness
- Committed to service excellence
- Engaging people with lived experience

