



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** Members of the General Committee

**From:** Sheldon Laidman, Commissioner of Community Services

**Meeting Date:** July 6, 2020

**Subject:** Report CSSS20-008  
Review of the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan for the  
City and County of Peterborough

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## **Purpose**

A report to recommend approval of updated 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan.

## **Recommendation**

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSSS20-008, dated July 6, 2020, of the Commissioner of Community Services, as follows:

That the reviewed and updated 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan (the Plan), attached as Appendix A, be approved.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report. Individual projects and programs will be brought to council for further implementation.

## **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. Service Managers are also required to review and update their plans at least once every five years. 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plans must address matters of provincial interest and be

consistent with policy statements issued under the Housing Services Act. The province established additional requirements through the Provincial Policy Statement on Housing and Homelessness Plans in 2018.

The Plan establishes new targets for ending chronic homelessness and building more affordable housing. It is evidence-based and informed by input from members of the community, gathered through extensive community consultations.

City staff have provided updates on the progress of the review through reports to Joint Services Steering Committee on September 6, 2018 (CSSSJSSC18-008) and on September 12, 2019 (CSSSJSSC19-008). The Review was submitted to the province for approval before the deadline of December 31, 2019. The Province has completed its review and recommended no changes be made. While Council has reviewed the document previously through the above referenced reports, it is now in front of Council for its final review and approval which could only be done following the Provincial review.

### **New Targets and Priority Areas**

The Review establishes two key priority areas:

1. Ending Homelessness and Staying Housed, and
2. Building Housing

### **Ending Homelessness and Staying Housed**

The City of Peterborough, as part of Built For Zero, is committed to ending chronic homelessness in the City and County of Peterborough by the end of 2025. An end to chronic homelessness would mean that homelessness is prevented whenever possible, and when it does occur, it is brief and non-recurring.

Built For Zero Peterborough is a multi-agency improvement team led by Social Services staff. Key elements of Built For Zero are: a system for Coordinated Access, a By-Name Priority List for housing, and a Housing First approach.

Coordinated Access is a community wide strategy to help prevent homelessness and to match individuals and families experiencing homelessness to appropriate housing and support resources based on their level of need.

The By-Name Priority List is an up-to-date, real-time list of everyone in the City and County of Peterborough who is experiencing homelessness. It includes details about their level of need. This helps inform what type of supports are needed to ensure housing is successful.

Housing First is a recovery-oriented approach that centers on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent and permanent housing and then providing additional supports and services according to individual needs.

### **Ending Homelessness & Staying Housed: Recent Progress**

In November 2019, Built For Zero Peterborough achieved what is known as a Quality By-Name Priority List, which means that there is quality system-wide data that is reliable, accurate, and up to date. Having a Quality By-Name List allows Built For Zero Peterborough to understand the scope of homelessness in the community and how people move in and out of the homelessness system on an ongoing basis. It provides accurate information to set goals to reduce homelessness and understand whether progress is being made in ending homelessness in the City and County of Peterborough.

The next step for Built For Zero Peterborough is to use the data from the By-Name Priority List to make changes in the system to more quickly move people from homelessness to housed.

Significant achievements are already being made:

- the City and its community partner agencies matched 193 households with housing between the months of January and March 2020
- 12 additional individuals have been identified for move-in through a Rapid Rehousing Initiative which is prioritizing access to housing with housing benefits for existing shelter clients. This initiative includes vulnerable individuals who are identified through the Coordinated Access System.

The Ending Homelessness and Staying Housed Working Group has begun to meet and are establishing their work plan, based on the updated goals in the Plan. See Strategic Direction 1-pager attached as Appendix B.

### **Building Housing**

A Housing Forecast was created for the City and County of Peterborough which sets targets for affordable housing production to 2029 (see Appendix C). These targets are broken down by City and Township, as well as by income level – from rents affordable for people receiving Ontario Works Shelter Allowance to people who are fully employed and earning minimum wage. There are specific targets for permanent supportive housing for people who have been chronically homeless and targets for affordable homeownership.

The Housing Forecast identifies three scenarios: Status Quo, Marginal Improvement, and Meets All Housing Needs. Through the Review, it was determined that the Meets All Housing Needs scenario is an ambitious, but necessary target.

Housing unit targets are not solely the responsibility of the City of Peterborough to develop. The Housing and Homelessness Plan identifies roles for private sector development, non-profit partners, and units that could be developed through the regeneration of existing Community Housing properties, through such organizations as Peterborough Housing Corporation.

### **Building Housing: Recent Progress**

Housing and Homelessness Services staff continue to work with Township, County, private and non-profit organizations and community partners to create more affordable housing in the City and County of Peterborough. Some examples of recent progress include:

- recommendations for updates to the Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan program area
- supporting developer applications for Federal affordable housing project funding/financing, partnering to create affordable rental units, and adapting to new provincial legislation (e.g. Bill 108 - *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019*); and
- ensuring the sustainability of existing community housing stock.

The Housing Action Task Force Working Group has been created and the work plan will be informed by the updated goals in the Plan (see Strategic Direction 1-pager attached as Appendix D).

## **Summary**

The reviewed and updated Housing and Homelessness Plan is a plan for the City, County and community. It combines significant data and community input to guide the City, County and community in its housing and homelessness needs.

Submitted by,

Sheldon Laidman  
Commissioner of Community Services

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**Attachments:**

Appendix A: Housing and Homelessness Plan

Appendix B: Strategic Direction – Ending Homelessness and Staying Housed 1-pager

Appendix C: Housing Forecast, 2019

Appendix D: Strategic Direction – Building Housing