



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Sheldon Laidman, Commissioner of Community Services

Meeting Date: June 14, 2021

Subject: Report CSD21-007
Community Safety and Well-being Plan – Interim Report

Purpose

A report to present an Interim Report of the Community Safety and Well-being Plan for the City of Peterborough, County of Peterborough, and eight local Townships.

Recommendations

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CSD21-007, dated June 14, 2021, of the Commissioner of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That the Interim Report of the Community Safety and Well-being Plan be approved; and
- b) That the Interim Report be posted to the City's website and the Ministry of the Solicitor General be informed of its completion.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Background

In January 2019 the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Solicitor General, amended the Police Service Act to require every municipality in the Province to adopt a Community Safety and Well-being Plan (CSWB Plan). The Province permitted municipalities to partner with other municipalities and/or First Nations to create a combined CSWB Plan. The City of Peterborough, County of Peterborough, and the Townships of Asphodel-Norwood, Cavan Monaghan, Douro-Dummer, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, North Kawartha, Otonabee-South Monaghan, Selwyn, and the Municipality of Trent Lakes have agreed to prepare a combined CSWB Plan.

CSWB Plans are optional for First Nations. Curve Lake First Nation and Hiawatha First Nation have been approached to participate in the combined CSWB Plan. Hiawatha First Nation has agreed to be involved and provide input and a response is pending from Curve Lake First Nation at this time.

The deadline for municipalities to submit a CSWB Plan is July 1, 2021. This deadline is an extension on the original deadline of January 1, 2021.

CSWB Plan Requirements

The Provincial Guidelines for developing a CSWB Plan indicate that municipalities must take an integrated approach to service delivery by working across a wide range of sectors, agencies, and organizations to proactively develop and implement evidence-based strategies and programs to address local priorities related to crime and complex social issues on a sustainable basis. A CSWB Plan must:

- (a) Identify risk factors in the municipality related to systemic discrimination and other social factors that contribute to crime, victimization, addiction, drug overdose and suicide and any other prescribed risk factors.
- (b) Identify which risk factors the municipality will treat as a priority to reduce.
- (c) Identify strategies to reduce the prioritized risk factors, including providing new services, changing existing services, improving the integration of existing services or coordinating existing services in a different way.
- (d) Set out measurable outcomes that the strategies are intended to produce.

Two key components for creating a CSWB Plan include the formation of a multi-sectoral Advisory Committee and engage in community consultations.

Status of Meeting Completion Date

In early 2020, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) organized an online networking group dedicated to CSWB Plans that the City has joined to understand how other municipalities are progressing with their plans and to understand

best practices. Staff understand that while several municipalities who started developing their CSWB Plans prior to the pandemic have submitted them on time to the Province, the vast majority are in varying stages of completion and will not be able to meet the new deadline and have asked for a further extension. The City and County of Peterborough have both passed motions requesting the Ministry of the Solicitor General extend the deadline. At this time no response from the Ministry has been received.

The following motion was passed by City Council at the February 22, 2021 meeting:

Whereas, the City of Peterborough recognizes the importance and value of creating a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan as required under the Police Services Act, as amended; and,

Whereas, the involvement and guidance from our community partners is necessary to complete the Plan; and,

Whereas, the ability for community partners to participate in the development of a Plan has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic,

Be it resolved, that the Clerk, on behalf of Council for the City of Peterborough, send a letter to the Ministry of the Solicitor General requesting the deadline for completing the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan be extended from its current deadline of July 1, 2021 to July 1, 2022.

The following motion was passed by County Council at their January 13, 2021 meeting:

Be it resolved that County Council receives the delegation from Chris Kawalec, Community Development Program Manager, City of Peterborough regarding the Community Safety & Wellbeing Plan and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Plan; and further

That a letter be sent to the Province requesting the deadline for the implementation of a Community Safety & Wellbeing Plan be extended; and further That City and County staff further discuss the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Plan as a joint initiative along with the scope of the work.

Local Approach

The process for developing a CSWB Plan in Peterborough has not been straightforward. Several delays and postponements have placed all local municipalities in a situation where they will not be able to meet the July 1, 2021 deadline set by the Province. The Ministry of the Solicitor General has not indicated further extensions will be granted, nor the implications to municipalities for not meeting the deadline.

In February 2020, just prior to the pandemic, a meeting was held in Norwood of all local municipalities, Peterborough Police Services, OPP, EMS, and Peterborough Public Health to discuss strategies for completing a CSWB Plan. It was agreed at this meeting that a combined CSWB Plan would be the best approach. In the weeks following the

meeting, activities were undertaken to initiate the project, including the initial stages of preparing a Request for Proposals to hire a consultant to assist with specific aspects of developing the CSWB Plan. All progress on the project stopped in March once the COVID-19 pandemic started locally. Staff working on the project were redeployed to other activities to address pandemic needs and business continuity challenges.

In January 2021, City staff in Community Services and the Police Services began meeting to restart work on the CSWB Plan. Discussions focused on prioritizing:

- Representation and formation of the Advisory Committee, including a Terms of Reference.
- Plan alignment with existing plans and policies.
- Recent consultation applicable to community safety and well-being
- Data collection.
- Need for support, either through staff, consultant, or both.

As work was reinitiated on the CSWB Plan, it was clear the July 1, 2021 deadline would not be attained as such a complicated and important plan requires a much longer time frame. The strategy shifted to developing an Interim Report for submission on July 1, 2021. The Interim Report would contain high-level priorities based on existing policies and plans with no actions or commitments identified. Each local Council would need to endorse the Interim Report in June 2021 to meet the deadline. Spring, 2022 would be the new target for a full CSWB Plan to be submitted to the Province. An Interim Report would satisfy the minimum requirements of the legislation and provide proof to the Ministry of each municipalities' intent to continue to pursue the adoption of a more comprehensive plan.

Although the preparation and adoption of a CSWB Plan is a municipal responsibility, staff recognize that the Police and the Police Services Board play an integral part in its success as the legislation is under the Police Services Act. Police representatives are part of the Advisory Committee; however, staff intend to attend the Board's June meeting to provide an update and seek their input on the revised work plan.

Advisory Committee

The Provincial Guidelines indicate the Advisory Committee must include, but is not limited to, local government, police services, health/mental health, education, social services, and community and custodial services for children and youth. The multi-sectoral membership of the local Advisory Committee is found in Appendix A, on page 8. While Hiawatha First Nation has joined the Advisory Committee to stay informed and provide input, the CSWB Plan will not cover Hiawatha First Nation. Terms of Reference have also been supported by the Advisory Committee. Co-chairs will be selected in an upcoming meeting with an urban and rural representation.

In March 2021, City staff and the Township CAOs met to discuss next steps in the project and obtain rural representation on the Advisory Committee. The Townships agreed that each municipality should have a representative on the Advisory Committee.

The Townships strategically assigned staff representing various roles, i.e., CAO, Clerk, Recreation, Economic Development, and front-line, to provide a range of perspectives.

The additional challenges placed on all local municipalities and agencies due to the pandemic imposed an obstacle to forming an Advisory Committee. Adding additional workload expectation associated with the Advisory Committee became problematic, particularly for health-care related organizations. However, all organizations and municipalities recognized the importance of a CSWB Plan and agreed to participate on the Advisory Committee within their current capacity.

Plan Alignment

Most organizations are guided by a policy document, such as a strategic plan, that contains key priorities and actions for the organization to follow so they effectively fulfill their mandate and serve their clients. Municipalities have multiple policies and plans that guide their operations. The Advisory Committee will use existing plans and policies as a starting point to ensure current research, consultations, and work is effectively used and not duplicated.

All the organizations represented on the Advisory Committee have an influence on the safety and/or well-being of the community. The CSWB Plan is meant to identify key risk factors that can be addressed across multiple sectors and agencies. One of the key tasks for the Advisory Committee will be to identify a reasonable number of key strategic priorities, and associated actions, that can be realistically addressed.

Data and Community Consultation

The foundation of the CSWB Plan must be supported by accurate data and an evidence-based approach. It must also obtain input and feedback through community consultation. As with the need to align with other plans and strategies, existing data and recently conducted consultations will be used where appropriate to inform the CSWB Plan. For example, the current 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, including the data collected and consultation results, will be used as the basis for priorities that may be included in the CSWB Plan related to housing and homelessness. Therefore, the community consultations initiated for the CSWB Plan will be targeted to those areas that warrant updated or new community input.

The pandemic has placed limits on the methods used to conduct community consultations. Various methods of receiving public input will be considered, including such options as: online surveys, interviews, Township websites, Township tax bills, social media, virtual round-table discussions, Connect Peterborough (and all available tools), and others.

Building on the Community Wellbeing Plan

On February 3, 2020, Council approved Report CSSS20-002 Community Wellbeing Plan, which had the goals of:

1. Make recommendations for Councils' consideration related to the priorities to improve the quality of life for people that live in the City and County of Peterborough and Curve Lake.
2. Provide a framework for progress reports and outcome measurement of wellbeing.
3. Continue to improve community engagement between residents and local government.

It was recognized during the process of creating the CWP that the requirements and objectives identified for a CSWB Plan were similar and had significant overlap. When Council received the CWP it was expected that the content, data, and community input would be used to support the creation of the CSWB Plan.

As mentioned above, alignment with other plans will be an important step in developing the full CSWB Plan. The Advisory Committee recognized the recent work of the CWP was relevant and valuable and should be used as the starting point for the CSWB Plan.

Therefore, the CSWB Plan Interim Report is being framed using the 7 priority areas identified in the CWP for improving the quality of life for all residents:

1. Environmental Stewardship
2. Democratic & Community Engagement
3. Good Jobs
4. Safe* & Healthy Community
5. Housing
6. Income and Poverty
7. Transportation

* "Safe" was not in the CWP but was added by the Advisory Committee.

Each member of the Advisory Committee provided input on how these priority areas coincide and support the strategic directions, policies, and strategic plans of their individual organization or municipality. These priority areas will likely change and evolve as a result of further research, community consultation, and the work of the Advisory Committee as it prioritizes the risk factors that can be addressed in a full CSWB Plan.

Summary

The revised Police Services Act requires the City of Peterborough to complete a Community and Safety Well-being Plan. A partnership has been established to create a combined CSWB Plan with the County of Peterborough and the eight local Townships. The current deadline of July 1, 2021 to complete the CSWB Plan will not be met with a full comprehensive plan. If endorsed, the Interim Report attached to this Report will be

submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General with the goal of submitting a full CSWB Plan by January 1, 2022.

Submitted by,

Sheldon Laidman
Commissioner of Community Services

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Attachment:

Appendix A: Community Safety and Well-being Plan – Interim Report