



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Sheldon Laidman, Commissioner, Community Services

Meeting Date: October 7, 2024

Report: 2023 Housing and Homelessness Plan Progress Report,
Report CSSS24-020

Subject

A report to present the 2023 Progress Report on the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan for the City and County of Peterborough.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSSS24-020, dated October 7, 2024, of the Commissioner of Community Services, as follows:

That the 2023 Housing and Homelessness Plan Progress Report be received for information.

Background

The Housing Services Act 2011 requires the City of Peterborough, as Service Manager for the City and County of Peterborough, to have a Housing and Homelessness Plan and to report annually on the progress. The City of Peterborough's Housing and Homelessness Plan was launched in 2014, then reviewed and updated in 2019. The 2023 Progress Report is attached as Appendix A.

The Report has been received and approved by the Greater Peterborough Joint Services Committee on September 5, 2024.

Highlights

In 2023, Peterborough had what experts consider an unhealthy rental vacancy rate of 1.1%, the lowest rental vacancy in the province. In the same year, resale home prices increased by 5.6%. Applications to the Centralized Housing Waitlist for Rent Geared to Income (RGI) housing increased by 28% and for those on the list, the average wait time for housing was 7.3 years. For the Special Priority Population (SPP) the average wait time was 1 year and 6 months.

Despite the challenges, the following progress was made in 2023:

- There were 255 shifts from homelessness to housing
- The time spent on the SPP waitlist decreased by 1.6%
- 78 households were housed in RGI Housing
- With additional provincial funding, 50 people were housed and receive 24/7 supports through the Wolfe Street Modular Bridge Housing Program
- 29 permanent supportive units dedicated to the By-Name Priority List through the repurposing of existing housing resources
- Created 12 new affordable homeownership units
- 9 fully supported affordable housing units were added at 191 Rink Street, Peterborough, 2 of those units were accessible
- Peterborough Housing Corporation Affordable Housing Project at Hunt Terraces was completed, providing 65 supportive units for people experiencing homelessness, vulnerable seniors, and low-income families

Key Objectives

As identified in the Plan, the City is working to:

- Invest in creative and innovative solutions with community partners, targeted towards reducing and ending homelessness in the City and County
- “Meet all housing needs” by 2029 by creating 580 supportive housing units for people experiencing chronic homelessness, 2,680 new rental units and 796 new homeownership units.

Meeting the targets requires collaboration across all levels of government, local organizations, and community members, with input from people with lived experience of housing insecurity and homelessness.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar:	Community & Well-being
Strategic Initiative:	Enhance and protect the health, safety, and well-being of all in our City. Provide robust, affordable and accessible sport, recreation, wellness, arts and social programs for people of all ages and abilities.
Strategic Pillar:	Governance & Fiscal Sustainability
Strategic Initiative:	Accountable, transparent, ethical, and responsible corporate governance and financial management that supports the needs of the community into the future. Proactively advocating for Peterborough's interests by working with other levels of government and optimizing strategic opportunities as they arise for the benefit of our City.

Engagement and Consultation

In 2023, city staff actively engaged with community partners and maximized resources through the following actions:

- The Housing Resource Centre staff provided ongoing eviction prevention support to households in the City and County of Peterborough. Additionally, a Registered Social Worker from the Peterborough Family Health Team assisted 17 individuals residing in the Brock Mission's Transitional Housing Program.
- Social Services staff maintained a presence at the Peterborough Public Library, rotating their days to offer support and education to library staff while connecting community members with stability resources. This approach not only fosters positive and supportive relationships within the community but also utilizes the library as a central hub for accessing resources.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget and financial implications as a result of the adoption of the recommendations of this report. Any specific budget and financial requirements will come forward either through the annual budget process or a separate report to Council.

Conclusion

The City of Peterborough as the Service Manager for the City and County is responsible for developing a 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan and working towards the goals in that plan – most notably, reducing homelessness. The implementation of this plan has produced noteworthy outcomes, such as an increase in rent supplements aimed at aiding individuals in maintaining housing stability and facilitating the transition of those facing homelessness into suitable accommodations. Ensuring safe and affordable housing stands as a top priority for Peterborough, with wide-ranging benefits including improved health, enhanced education, and stimulated economic growth for the entire community.

Attachments

Appendix A: 2023 Housing and Homelessness Plan Progress Report

Submitted by,

Sheldon Laidman
Commissioner of Community Services

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