



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Trish Reed, Accessibility and Communication Specialist

Meeting Date: October 4, 2017

Subject: Report AAC17-054
Community Wellbeing Plan

Purpose

A report to introduce a presentation on the Community Wellbeing Plan.

Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) approve the recommendation outlined in Report AAC17-054 dated October 4, 2017, of the Accessibility and Communication Specialist as follows:

That the presentation on the Community Wellbeing Plan be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Background

“Community wellbeing is the combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions identified by individuals and their communities as essential for them to flourish and fulfill their potential.” (Wiseman and Brasher)

Municipalities are already active in the area of community wellbeing. As the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager for Ontario Works, Children’s Services, and Housing and Homelessness for the City and County of Peterborough, the Social Services Division is required to develop service plans in these areas. Locally, municipal governments including the City have also taken an active role in Age-Friendly Peterborough, Sustainable Peterborough and Accessibility plans all of which contribute to community wellbeing.

The existing Municipal Social Plan is outdated; and there are other social issues that are not addressed through it or any of the other above plans. A municipal Community Wellbeing plan will build on these existing plans and support the strategic directions in the areas where there may be gaps related to issues like safe and thriving neighbourhoods, retention of youth through education and jobs, vibrant neighbourhoods, and inclusive community design.

There are many organizations and committees across the Peterborough area also working on community wellbeing. They are looking to connect with each other and to work more efficiently together. The goal is to make the Peterborough area a place for residents to live, grow, and thrive. The question is how and toward what priorities. There seems to be a desire for a shared vision, evidence based approaches and systems to track progress but there is no clear coordinating entity yet.

Meeting the needs of the people of Peterborough cannot be in isolation or solely the responsibility of municipalities. A cross section of stakeholders from the public sector, the not for profit sector, and the business sector must collaborate for the community wellbeing to be maximized. Now is the time for the City and County of Peterborough to take a lead role to help further this development.

Goals of the Community Wellbeing Planning Process

1. Make recommendations for Council's consideration related to quality of life priorities for residents of the City and County of Peterborough and Curve Lake;
2. Provide a framework for progress reports and outcome measurement;
3. Continue to improve the depth and breadth community engagement.

Project Governance structure

The Community Wellbeing Plan will cover the geographic area of the City and County of Peterborough. To coordinate the planning process, including City staff, County staff, townships, community agencies, businesses and the residents, a governance structure has been established to allow for effective and efficient planning.

The project operations will be coordinated by a project team, consisting of a variety of City staff, including Police representation. The project leader and the project team will make day-to-day/operational level decisions about the project and coordinate the community engagement and data gathering.

The Community Advisory Network is a broader group of representatives from community organizations to provide input, advice and support to the development and implementation of the plan. This group involves representatives from:

- Community Foundation
- Electric City Culture Council
- Employment Planning Council
- Family Health Teams
- Kawartha Pine Ridge Board of Education
- Ministry of Sport, Culture and Tourism
- New Canadian Centre
- Nourish
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
- Peterborough County
- Peterborough CVN Board of Education
- Peterborough Economic Development
- Peterborough GreenUp
- Peterborough Health Unit
- Peterborough Police Services
- Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network
- P.V.N.C Catholic District School Board
- Sustainable Peterborough
- The Faith Community
- United Way

The Advisory Network is responsible to the Steering Committee who oversees the scope, resources, budget, timeline and deliverables of the project. The Project Steering Committee includes:

- Community Services Director
- Corporate Service Director
- Planning Directors for both the City and the County
- Chair of the Advisory Network (Larry Stinson, Peterborough Public Health)
- Social Services Division Manager

There are discussions planned to determine the extent to which Hiawatha and Curve Lake First Nations and Indigenous organizations in the community would be interested in being involved in this planning process. Project goals and committee composition may be revised accordingly.

Since the project minimally covers City and the County, the Project Steering Committee will provide updates to the Joint Services Steering Committee on a regular basis.

Canadian Index of Wellbeing as the Measurement Framework

A comprehensive set of measures and indicators will help ensure concrete actions are set, and success of the Wellbeing plan can be measured and reported over time. A variety of methodologies were investigated as possible measurement frameworks. The Canadian Index of Wellbeing, developed at the University of Waterloo, and used across Canada at federal, provincial and municipal levels has been selected as the tool to support Peterborough's Community Wellbeing Plan. The Canadian Index of Wellbeing is based on 8 domains or areas as follows:

Community Vitality - what is happening in our neighbourhoods, how safe we feel, and whether or not we are engaged in community activities or becoming socially isolated.

Democratic Engagement - citizens freely participate in political activities, express their political views, and share political knowledge; where governments build relationships, trust, and encourage citizen participation; and, where democratic values are promoted by citizens, civic organizations, and all levels of government.

Education - focuses on school-based learning and education rather than informal learning. Societies that thrive encourage a thirst for knowledge at every age and stage, so includes both traditional indicators of educational achievement along with some less conventional indicators of education across the life span.

Environment - explores natural assets available to Canadians, the flow of these resources over time, and some of the impacts of human activity on the environment.

Healthy Population – assess whether different aspects of our health are improving or deteriorating.

Leisure and Culture - participation and engagement with the arts, culture, and recreation. Participation in these activities can be highly beneficial to wellbeing by contributing to better physical and mental health, and creating opportunities for socializing, relaxation, and learning new things.

Living Standards - the level and distribution of Canadians' income and wealth by monitoring poverty rates, income fluctuations, labour market security and job quality. It also considers basic necessities such as food security and affordable housing.

Time Use - how Canadians spend their time, how we experience time, what factors control our time use, and how time use affects our wellbeing.

Each domain has 8 indicators. The domains and indicators are based on Canadian values related to the quality of life. Together these indicators with local data will help determine the areas for municipal priorities and measure over time the success of achieving the priority actions.

Community Engagement

Evidence based decision making is important in the planning process but our local community input is also needed. The Community Wellbeing planning process will require robust community engagement.

A survey developed to help identify what aspects of community wellbeing should be a priority, is available online until October 6, 2017 at www.peterborough.ca/ptbowellbeing. Hard copies of the survey are also available at Social Services (178 Charlotte Street) or at City Hall (500 George Street North). Comments or survey answers may also be submitted by email (ptbowellbeing@peterborough.ca) or phone (Nancy Fischer, Project Manager, 705-748-7777 extension 1477).

In-person meetings with the community are planned for the fall of 2017. The in-person meetings will be an opportunity to help prioritize and develop action items for the plan.

Summary

The final Community Wellbeing Plan, anticipated in 2018, will provide recommendations to City and County Councils regarding 3 to 5 key local government actions to be completed over the next 3 to 5 years to improve the quality of life for local area residents.

Submitted by,

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