

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Jul13\_2021**

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### **REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

#### **Seniors' Supports and Services Project Update July 2021**

##### **Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with an update on the status of the Seniors' Supports and Services Project.

##### **Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 6 - Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

##### **Report**

###### What is the Seniors' Supports and Services Project?

Strathcona County is taking efforts to respond to the needs of seniors in the community. Through the Seniors' Supports and Services Project, the County is working with community to identify the opportunities and services currently exist for seniors, and where the County can provide further supports.

The Project is taking a broad look at the needs of residents around seniors' supports and services. This includes the different age groups within the senior population, for example those aged 65 to 74 and 85 and over, individuals in the 55 to 64 age range, and the next generation of seniors who are under 55. This also includes caregivers of seniors who are accessing information and supports for the older adults in their life. The scope of this project includes age-friendly approaches to gathering spaces, mental health, wellbeing, recreation, transit, housing, volunteerism, and facilities to ultimately create a long-term vision of supporting older adults in Strathcona County.

The Project is proposed to take place in four overlapping phases, until completion in December 2021. These phases are:

1. Project Initiation
2. Awareness Campaign
3. Public Engagement
4. Analysis and Reporting

###### What is the current status?

Since April 2021, Administration has been enacting the phases of the workplan, as presented to Priorities Committee.

In May, Administration completed a revamp to the Strathcona County Seniors webpage. By gathering information from the Community Services Division departments, Heartland Housing Foundation, and the Strathcona County Library, the links and information on the Seniors webpage were updated. The information is now presented around the four pillars of the Social Framework: accessibility, affordability, connectedness and inclusion, and safety. The supports and services provided on the website have also been promoted in newspaper articles in the Sherwood Park News.

Throughout the month of June, Strathcona County has been engaging with seniors throughout Strathcona County. The first method of engagement was a public survey, which ran from June 1-20, to coincide with Seniors Week. The survey gathered information on

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individuals' habits and preferences for accessing information, recreation facilities, and wellness activities and what barriers they may experience in those processes. The survey also gathered information on preferences for seniors-only recreation and social spaces.

In addition to the survey, Administration hosted community conversations to collect a more robust understanding of the experiences of seniors in the County. To date, 25 individuals, representing seniors and senior-serving groups and organizations have attended the stakeholder conversations. The analysis of the survey and these conversations will be prepared over the summer, to inform the final report to Council at the end of the year.

### What are the expected deliverables?

By the end of 2021, Administration will provide a report to Council with options for providing seniors-specific gathering spaces, facilities, services, and supports, including information on the implications, costs, and feasibility of the identified options.

### **Council and Committee History**

April 20, 2021	Administration presented the Seniors' Supports and Services Project workplan to Priorities Committee.
February 2, 2021	Council moved THAT Administration provide regular updates to Priorities Committee, commencing at the end of Quarter 2 regarding progress with respect to Priorities Committee motion 2021/ P4 on ongoing work on the Seniors Hub Concept, including the results of ongoing stakeholder communication and research.
January 26, 2021	Council moved THAT the January 26, 2021 Seniors Advisory Committee report, Seniors Hub Concept, be referred to Administration for a report, by the end of the fourth quarter of 2021, on options for establishing a seniors hub, including potential collaboration opportunities with stakeholders and options to combine with planned or existing County facilities or sites; and that the report include information on the implications, costs, and feasibility of the identified options.

### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** N/A

**Legislative/Legal:** N/A

**Interdepartmental:** Family and Community Services, Recreation, Parks and Culture, Transit Services, Strathcona County Library, Heartland Housing Foundation

**Master Plan/Framework:** Strathcona County Strategic Plan (2013-2030), Social Framework (2017), Recreation, Parks and Culture Strategy (2019), Transit Master Plan (2018), Diversity and Inclusion Policy (2020)

### **Enclosure**

- 1 Chronology of Seniors' Supports and Services Project Activities