

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_Oct23\_2018**

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**REPORT FOR INFORMATION****COMMUNITY LIVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Community Living Advisory Committee Suggested Options with New Committees****Report Purpose**

To provide Council with a synopsis of conversations from this committee, and suggest four options for consideration to integrate the addition of three new committees (youth, seniors and accessibility).

**Summary**

CLAC is an advisory committee appointed by Strathcona County Council. The nine voting members represent diverse ages, interests, experiences and backgrounds from within the greater Strathcona County community. In its present iteration, CLAC is established under the Social and Cultural Pillars of Council's Strategic Plan and provides a conduit for community voices and perspectives to be heard by Council. It also provides council with strategic policy advice and recommendations, as it relates to the six priority items identified in the mandate letter.

As Council will be making decisions in the near future which could have a significant impact upon the role and mandate of CLAC, the Committee has undertaken strategic conversations to provide input into CLAC's future. CLAC members have not reached consensus with a solution, but rather has arrived at the following four options for consideration by Council. This input is meant to assist in Council's deliberations and is not an exhaustive list.

**Option 1 – CLAC remains with current membership configuration and mandate (Status Quo) and works alongside the addition of three Council appointed committees. This could also mean adjusting CLAC mandate to better align with council priorities.**

The formation of CLAC a few years ago was a result of the Cuff report recommendations, and consolidation by Council of multiple committees. At that time the rationale was CLAC would provide a more robust and fulsome cross-section of community input to cross cutting issues facing the County. Examples of this would include transit, recreational opportunities or barrier free access to facilities.

***Pros***

If CLAC was able to continue in its current form the Committee would continue to provide valuable advice to council on the cross segmental issues for the betterment of the community, focusing on the issues identified in their mandate.

### ***Cons***

If Council were to move forward with the addition of Council Committee's representing youth, seniors and accessibility without clear delineation of roles and responsibilities between the committees, unintended gaps or overlaps between mandates may develop.

### **Option 2 – Dissolve CLAC and provide current members the opportunity to continue their community service within one of the newly created committees.**

CLAC members are community members, drawn from Strathcona County. They have come forward to serve the citizens of Strathcona County through their active participation and interest on CLAC.

### ***Pros***

This would provide an outlet for the current CLAC membership to continue to contribute to their community in a meaningful way, focused on their passion and areas of interest.

### ***Cons***

Existing CLAC members may have pre-conceived ideas of how the new committees should function. As well, community members may see this as a "dispersal draft" and perceive this as preferential treatment to existing CLAC members.

### **Option 3 – Refine CLAC's mandate to have an overarching scope to include the three additional committees considered by Council.**

CLAC has a broad mandate in its current form. Its existing structure allows for the addition of sub-committees. Additional membership could be achieved through changes to existing bylaws. This structure aligns with a recommendation from the George Cuff report.

### ***Pros***

Each of the committees considered by council could be inserted as sub-committees to CLAC and could concentrate specifically on the areas currently being considered for a new committee. No additional committees of Council would be formed thus providing for an efficient administrative model.

### ***Cons***

CLAC could be perceived as wielding significant influence within the council committee structure. Considerable work would be needed to ensure accountabilities, scope and mandate for the subcommittees as well as overall CLAC governance would be addressed to continue alignment with overall Council goals and objectives. As well, community interest

to serve on the sub-committees could be low given a perception of “low profile” to the sub-committees.

**Option 4 – Expand the membership of CLAC to include additional members representing community groups targeted by the suggested new committees of Council.**

CLAC has a broad mandate in its current form. Additional membership could be achieved through changes to existing bylaws. For example each of the 3 new committees could elect 2 members from its membership to represent them on CLAC and these members would be voting members of CLAC. Therefore CLAC would consist of 9 community members and 6 committee appointed members.

***Pros***

This model could address the perceived gap which CLAC in its current state presents. It would build up the existing structure and experience of CLAC while maintaining a manageable workload for both administration and Council members.

***Cons***

The workload for CLAC may become unmanageable and desired areas of focus may not be as prominent as Council has desired at this time. The committee could become too large to be effective in their role.

**Enclosures**

1. Community Living Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
2. Community Living Advisory Committee Mandate Letter