

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Jun22\_2021**

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### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**

#### **Youth Strategy Report and Update**

##### **Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on the youth and community-led collaborative Youth Strategy Project.

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

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

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

##### **Report**

##### ***Project Background***

In 2019, Council passed a motion to conduct a Youth Needs and Assets Assessment (YNAA). The YNAA explored existing opportunities for youth and young adults in the County between the ages of 14-29 while identifying areas for improvement.

The YNAA final report provided recommendations for the County to consider to address youth and young adults' needs in six priority areas: communication and engagement, collaboration, mental health, gathering spaces, transportation, and affordability. The overarching recommendation was to create a community-led collaborative youth strategy to guide the implementation of other recommendations identified in the report.

##### ***Current Project Status***

In response to the overarching YNAA recommendation, youth-serving organizations in Strathcona County and Strathcona County Family and Community Services have begun developing a community-led, collaborative youth strategy.

Youth and young adults between the ages of 14-24 have been recruited to advise on the strategy and provide leadership on the project through participation in Next Gen Action Groups. A series of Next Gen Action Group Rallies were held between January – May, 2021. In the rallies, Next Gen shared their perspectives on Next Gen needs related to gathering spaces, mental health, and transportation and engaged in conversation with local community experts. A summary of findings from the rallies is attached to this report.

Next steps for this project are to continue to work with Next Gen and community partners to take action on what was heard at rallies and to develop a youth strategy based on the voices of Next Gen.

##### **Council and Committee History**

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| October 22, 2019  | Priorities Committee received the Youth Needs and Assets Assessment – Final Report                               |
| July 16, 2019     | Priorities Committee received an interim report on the Youth Needs and Assets Assessment.                        |
| February 26, 2019 | Council approved "That the Youth Needs and Assets Assessment Report be brought back to Council in December 2019" |

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July 19, 2018 Council approved "That up to \$100,000 from the R 4 Municipal Projects Reserve be allocated to undertake Option 4, as set out in the June 19, 2019 Family and Community Services report, and that the deliverables include assessing data and reviewing current available research, conducting focus groups and community outreach with youth, providing an interim report, and providing a final report with recommendations for Council's consideration by May 2019"

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** N/A

**Legislative/Legal:** N/A

**Interdepartmental:** Communications, Transit, Recreation Parks and Culture, Economic Development and Tourism

**Master Plan/Framework:** Social Framework

**Enclosures**

- 1 Youth Strategy Report and Update Presentation
- 2 What We Heard from Next Gen – Data Analysis and Summary