

Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing (Final Report)**Report Purpose**

To provide Council with the final report created by the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing.

Recommendation

That the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing (Final Report) be endorsed, and that the report be referred to Administration to prepare a holistic implementation plan, to be completed and presented to Council at the April 26, 2016 Council Meeting, taking into consideration Council's discussion and prioritized strategic goals.

Council History

February 2015 – Task Force created and Co-Chairs appointed

July 14, 2015 – Interim report to Priorities Committee

January 26, 2016 – Final report shared with Priorities Committee and referred to Council

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: Housing plays an important part in the community's economy. A diverse housing mix allows for a variety of workers to call Strathcona County home.

Governance: The report identifies the role of every order of government in the housing portfolio. The municipal responsibility is largely as a facilitator and land regulator. As well, advocacy to both the provincial and federal governments is a key to success being achieved in this area.

Social: Being a municipality that can support all different demographics assists in community cohesion and character.

Culture: Being a diverse community supports the overall vision of becoming Canada's most livable community. Attracting people from all walks of life builds on the strength of the community.

Environment: An aspect of affordability that is often overlooked is the transportation costs when housing is built away from transportation corridors for multi-modal travel. If this is factored in when new neighbourhoods are planned out, transit oriented travel becomes more available and environmental impacts of that travel are reduced.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: Family and Community Services, Planning and Development Services

Alternate Recommendation

THAT the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing (Final Report) be endorsed and that Administration prepare a detailed implementation plan and proposed budget for recommendations ____, as set out in the Executive Summary (Enclosure 1) to the February 23, 2016, Corporate Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs report.

Summary

This report is the culmination of numerous hours of effort by a passionate group of Strathcona County citizens. The task force had representation from various segments of the community and members were chosen to specifically share perspectives from more than one interest area. For example, one member was able to provide a seniors perspective,

another member a not for profit housing agency perspective, as well as a planning and development perspective.

There are several recommendations for Council's consideration. Although the task force gave serious thought and consideration to the recommendations, they were also very realistic at the Priorities Committee when sharing that the issues in this area are long standing, complex and finding solutions will require, most often, multiple partners and will take time.

Communication Plan

Following the Council Meeting, Council direction will be shared on the County website and forwarded to members of the task force.

Enclosure

1 Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing (Final Report)