

Priorities Committee Meeting_Oct17_2023

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Strathcona County Housing Affordability Strategy update

Report Purpose

To provide Priorities Committee with an update on development of the Housing Affordability Strategy.

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 2 Priority - A diversity of housing options that addresses affordability, aligns with community needs and responds to changing demographics

Goal 2 Priority - Social supports that enhance community well-being and safety, and build community connection.

Report

On April 4, 2023, administration presented several reports to Council that explored options to increase housing affordability within Strathcona County. Council directed administration to move forward with multiple housing affordability actions, including the development of a Housing Affordability Strategy.

The Housing Affordability Strategy will provide a coordinated vision for housing affordability in Strathcona County and establish a strategic frame to align both ongoing and future actions. The Strategy will outline targets, measures and actions to accomplish the vision, and will position the County to work in partnership with other levels of government and improve access to funding opportunities.

Administration has prepared an update on development of the draft Strategy at the approximate midpoint of the project. The update will include information on engagement to date and a first draft of the vision, principles, targets and strategic directions for discussion and feedback.

Council and Committee History

April 4, 2023	Council approved THAT Administration, in consultation with community partners, prepare a report for Council's consideration by the end of Q1 2024 with a Housing Affordability Strategy as set out in Section 7.1 of enclosure 4 of the April 4, 2023 Planning and Development Services report.
February 1, 2022	Council approved THAT initiatives one and two, as set out in Enclosure 2 of the February 1, 2022, Planning and Development Services Report, be approved, and THAT administration include funding for initiative three, as set out in Enclosure 2 of the February 1, 2022, Planning and Development Services Report, in the 2023 and 2024 budget processes.
May 11, 2021	Priorities Committee approved THAT the May 11, 2021 report, Affordable Housing Options May 2021, be referred to administration to prepare a report for Council by the end of the fourth quarter of 2021 on potential actions or strategies (including community-led strategies) to advance recommendations 1 and 2 as set out on slide 10 of Enclosure 1 of the May 11, 2021 Affordable Housing Options report.

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Associate Commissioners: Jason Chance, Community Services and Stacy Fedechko, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Lead Department: Family and Community Services

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- October 27, 2020 Council approved THAT administration prepare a report for Council's consideration by the end of Q1 2021, on a community-led approach to affordable housing that addresses four specific matters:
1. A review of best practice strategies to mitigate housing gaps;
 2. Prioritization of the Land Use Bylaw amendments for the Urban Service Area;
 3. The results of an estimation of homelessness, by way of conducting a homeless count, to better understand housing needs; and
 4. Building local and regional partnerships to respond to housing and homeless needs.
- May 23, 2017 Council approved the Social Framework, which included the outcome of affordability.
- January 26, 2016 The Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing final report was presented to Priorities Committee

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Financial/Budget: There are no financial implications at this time. Once the final strategy is complete, there may be financial implications associated with the proposed actions.

Legislative/Legal: Legislative and Legal Services has been consulted on the strategy.

Interdepartmental: Family and Community Services and Planning and Development Services are working in partnership to develop the strategy, with insight from other departments.

Master Plan/Framework: Strategic Plan, Social Framework, Municipal Land Framework, Edmonton Metropolitan Growth Plan, Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw.

Enclosure

- 1 Strathcona County Housing Affordability Strategy update presentation