

April 26, 2016 Council Meeting

Community Housing Implementation Plan

How did we get here?

- Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing created February 2015
 - The Task Force will provide recommendations to Strathcona County Council that encourage the creation of more housing units that span the continuum of housing. Specific responsibilities include the identification of:
 - a. A common understanding of the current state of community housing within Strathcona County;
 - b. The role of the municipality in community housing;
 - c. An inventory of all stakeholders in the community housing portfolio;
 - d. How to leverage partners in the community housing portfolio; and
 - e. Innovative ideas and practices for Council's consideration.

How did we get here?

- Stakeholder engagement (June 25, 2016)
 - Participants were consulted on four questions:
 1. What programs that currently exist address community housing needs, now and into the future? Where do you see gaps?
 2. What sort of 'community' housing types would benefit citizens of Strathcona County?
 3. How can organizations that work on housing collaborate with one another to add value?
 4. Within 20-30 years, what does an ideal housing mix in a community look like?
 - Greater than 20 community groups/stakeholders were in attendance

How did we get here?

- Interim report to Priorities Committee – July 14, 2015
 - Year to date activities
 - Focus on “community” housing term
 - Stakeholder engagement
- Final report to Priorities Committee – January 26, 2016
 - 17 recommendations
 - Referred to Council for February 11, 2016
- Final report to Council – February 11, 2016
 - 17 recommendations
 - 1 recommendation endorsed
 - Motion approved to bring a holistic implementation plan

Developments since February

- Heartland Housing Foundation motions (March 16, 2016):
 - Carla Howatt MOVED “THAT the Board establishes a Sub-committee on Community Housing to address this issue within this sub-region.” CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
 - Birgit Blizzard MOVED “THAT the Vice Chair of Heartland Housing Foundation and Executive Director of Heartland Housing Foundation be the co-chairs of the Sub-committee on Community Housing.” CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Developments since February

- Community Living Advisory Committee (CLAC) has met
 - Recommendations previously suggested for consideration by CLAC can now be looked at by the Heartland Housing Foundation sub-committee
 - CLAC can embrace their advisory role with strong collaboration with both Heartland Housing Foundation and Council

Developments since February

- Planning and Development Services have looked at the recommendations in the report and see strong synergies with the upcoming Municipal Development Plan update
- PDS plans to bring forward their response to recommendations together with the MDP update in Q4 2016

Developments since February

- The Federal Budget was approved on March 22, 2016 and included the following:
 - Doubling the Investment in Affordable Housing Initiative (\$504.4M over two years)
 - Increasing Affordable Housing for Seniors (\$200.7M over two years)