

Priorities Committee Meeting_Nov26_2024

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Housing Affordability Strategy – housing uses

Report Purpose

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on actions to increase opportunities for supportive housing uses.

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 3 - Responsible Development

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

Goal 2 Priority - A diverse, welcoming, inclusive, and an accessible community for all

Goal 3 Priority - Growth and development that prioritizes community well-being and economic benefits

Report

The Strathcona County Housing Affordability Strategy was approved by Council in April of 2024. Action item 1.4 of the strategy provides direction to increase opportunities for supportive housing uses by reducing the number of different terms used for what would be considered the same or similar forms of housing to reduce stigma-driven land use conflicts and regulate the use, rather than the user.

The existing Land Use Bylaw has several overlapping uses which take the same or similar forms. The duplication within multiple definitions can cause confusion and result in uses that are obsolete.

Planning and Development Services has prepared an update regarding potential amendments to the Land Use Bylaw that aim to consolidate uses which assume the same or similar forms. This will resolve existing duplications, remove terms that are outdated or associated with stigma and provide clarity to potential applicants.

Consultation regarding supportive housing occurred with stakeholders during the creation of the Housing Affordability Strategy. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak directly to Council regarding the proposed amendments at a future public hearing.

Additional details on the proposed housing amendments have been provided within Enclosure 1.

Council and Committee History

April 23, 2024 Council approved the Strathcona County Housing Affordability Strategy.

April 4, 2023 Council approved: THAT administration prepare for Council's consideration at a Public Hearing by the end of Q2 2024, the necessary bylaws to implement the red tape reduction measures for Supportive and Affordable Housing Related Uses, Secondary Suites, Garden Suites and Parking, as set out in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of Enclosure 2 of the April 4, 2023 Planning and Development Services report.

Priorities Committee Meeting_Nov26_2024

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.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Financial/Budget: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: The proposed amendments have been circulated to internal departments and external agencies.

Master Plan/Framework: Strathcona County Housing Affordability Strategy

Communication Plan

Engagement on the Housing Affordability Strategy included workshops and one-on-one discussions with local housing partners, as well as engagement with Council and community advisory committees.

The future public hearing will be advertised in the newspaper in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act* as well as on the County website.

Enclosure

1 Housing Affordability Strategy – housing uses presentation