

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Jul12\_2016**

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### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**

#### **Community Housing Implementation Plan Report – Habitat for Humanity**

##### **Report Purpose**

To address item 2.5 of the 2016 Community Housing Implementation Plan; approved April 26, 2016.

##### **Council History**

January 26, 2016 - Strathcona County Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing completed their Final Report.

April 26, 2016 - Council amended and approved an Implementation Plan for the Strathcona County Task Force on Community Housing report.

##### **Strategic Plan Priority Areas**

**Economy:** N/A

**Governance:** Community housing projects provide opportunities to increase public involvement and communication on issues affecting the County's future and provide opportunities to create and maintain strong relationships with community housing organizations to ensure the long-term prosperity of neighbourhoods.

**Social:** Community housing projects contribute to strong neighbourhoods and communities which support the diverse needs of County residents.

**Culture:** Community housing projects contribute to and strengthen a community's identity through diversity and inclusion of all income levels.

**Environment:** N/A

##### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** Policy changes may be required to facilitate the options within this report.

**Legislative/Legal:** N/A

**Interdepartmental:** Cooperation between departments may be required in order to implement policy changes.

##### **Summary**

Strathcona County Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing has recommended that Planning and Development Services examine various topics regarding Community Housing opportunities within the County. This report is in response to the following item of the April 26, 2016 approved Community Housing Implementation Plan:

*2.5 That Administration prepare a report on options for increasing Habitat for Humanity development in Strathcona County.*

This report provides an overview of Strathcona County Housing Statistics and previous Habitat for Humanity involvement within the area. Land is a challenge for Habitat for Humanity given the limited inventory designated for community housing projects and the expense involved in acquiring the lands.

In order to increase Habitat for Humanity development in Strathcona County, options that focus on providing land have been identified including:

- **Grants** - Strathcona County could create a municipally funded grant program for Habitat for Humanity builds which would assist the organization in the purchase of lands within Strathcona County.
- **Lands** - Strathcona County could sell municipally owned lands to Habitat for Humanity at reduced costs.
- **Developer Incentives** - Strathcona County could provide incentives for developers to provide community housing opportunities that will indirectly aid Habitat for Humanity and other community housing organizations. Some options for developer incentives have been identified under a separate report – PDS Community Housing Implementation Plan Report – Developer Incentives June 2016.

#### **Enclosures**

- 1 Presentation – Habitat for Humanity
- 2 Community Housing Implementation Plan Report – Habitat for Humanity