



Committee Report

To: Councillor Mark Goetz, Chair and
Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Christine MacDonald
Director of Human Services

Date: April 6, 2023

Re: Housing & Homelessness Plan 2024-2034

Staff Recommendation:

The report Housing & Homelessness Plan 2024-2034 is for information.

Background:

The Housing Services Act, 2011 provides the legislative framework and policy guidelines for community housing in Ontario. Under section 6 of the Act, designated Service Managers, such as Bruce County, are required to develop and implement Housing & Homelessness Plans every 10 years. The Act prescribes several activities that have been included in the workplan outlined that follows. The Plan is a tool to set the municipal strategy and measure benchmarks through the lifecycle of the plan.

To build a comprehensive and exhaustive Plan, Service Managers are required to assess current and future local housing need, plan for local housing & homelessness services to address the need, measure, and report on progress towards the goals of the plan and review the plans at least every five years.

Workplan & Next Steps:

Phase 1: Demographic Housing Study - Complete

1. Housing Demographic Study

KPMG was hired to produce a Demographic Housing Study for the region. The goal of the study was to present an overview of the current economic and demographic characteristics, and housing stock analysis to offer broad recommendations for consideration.

Phase 2: Survey - Q2 2023

1. Develop and distribute a housing survey to Bruce County residents through various means.

The survey will be used to collect general housing data and determine housing need from the community.

Phase 3: Stakeholder Housing Forums & Key Informant Interviews - Q3 2023

1. Host stakeholder housing forums to gather information from a multitude of stakeholders.

A key element in the development of the plan are various stakeholder forums which will be planned and held throughout the fall with a variety of players involved in the housing and homelessness system.

The forums will be a means to obtain substantial pieces of information from a variety of stakeholders from across the County.

2. Key Informant Interviews

Staff will conduct key informant interviews with community leaders working in the housing & homelessness field.

The interviews will give staff the opportunity to gain intricate details of what is happening in the field and what the greatest needs are.

Phase 4: Virtual Community Forum - Q4 2023

1. Staff will host a virtual community forum to showcase data and ensure the information gathered is relevant.

Phase 5 - Draft and Finalize report for submission - Q1 & Q2 2024

1. Develop objective, strategies, and targets.

Service Managers are required to develop objectives, strategies, targets and present them in the plan.

2. Finalize the report and submit to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing

The final report will be presented at a Human Services Committee meeting being submitted to the Ministry.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

All financial considerations are included in the 2023 budget.

Staff will use internal & external resources to develop a comprehensive plan.

It is a requirement of the Housing Services Act, 2011, to review the plan and provide an update to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing every five years, as well as a yearly progress report.

Limited IT resources may be necessary to support the development of the Plan.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Staff will work with the Planning & Economic Development, Office of CAO and Information Technology departments over the course of the development of the Housing & Homelessness Plan.

Staff will collaborate with Corporate Communications Specialist to develop a communication plan to build awareness of the survey and will work with IT to have the survey available electronically.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal #3 Find creative new ways to engage our public

Goal #6 Explore alternative options to improve efficiency and service

Goal #9 Coordinate concerted efforts to advance our agenda

Goal #10 Develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are meaningful and report on them

Report Author:

Tania Dickson

Housing Services Manager

Departmental Approval:

Christine MacDonald

Deputy Chief Administrative Office

Approved for Submission:

Derrick Thomson

Chief Administrative Officer