



## Request for Decision Housing and Homelessness Plan

Presented To: Community Services  
Committee

Presented: Monday, Nov 18, 2013

Report Date Friday, Nov 01, 2013

Type: Presentations

### **RECOMMENDATION**

WHEREAS the Housing Services Act requires that communities prepare and approve local Housing and Homelessness Plans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approve the Housing and Homelessness Plan as outlined in this report dated November 1, 2013, and;

THAT a copy of the Housing and Homelessness Plan be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for comment.

### **FINANCE IMPLICATIONS**

If there are any financial implications resulting from the implementation of the plan, further reports would be provided to Council.

### **Background**

The Province has mandated the completion of high level strategic documents known as local Housing and Homelessness Plans (the Plan). The Plans are intended to address areas of provincial interest while guiding municipalities in creating a flexible, community centered housing and homelessness system. The system is to allow for a range of housing options in order to meet a broad range of housing needs. The Plans should demonstrate a system of co-ordinated housing and homelessness services.

Under the Housing Services Act (HSA), the areas of provincial interests include a system of housing and homelessness that:

- is focused on achieving positive outcomes for individuals and families;
- addresses the housing needs of individuals and families in order to help address other challenges they face;
- has a role for non-profit corporations and non-profit housing cooperatives;
- has a role for the private market in meeting housing needs;
- provides for partnerships among governments and others in the community;
- treats individuals and families with respect and dignity;
- is co-ordinated with other community services;

### **Signed By**

#### **Report Prepared By**

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#### **Recommended by the Department**

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- is relevant to local circumstances;
- allows for a range of housing options to meet a broad range of needs;
- ensures appropriate accountability for public funding;
- supports economic prosperity; and
- is delivered in a manner that promotes environmental sustainability and energy conservation.

The Plan must cover a planning horizon of no less than 10 years. At least once every five years, the Plan is to be reviewed and amended as needed to reflect changes in local circumstances.

The HSA requires that the municipality, as service manager, approve its initial plan on or before January 1, 2014. A copy of the Plan is to be provided to the Minister of Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing without delay after approving it. The Minister will review the Plan to ensure that it meets all legislated requirements.

The province does not expect the Plans to be allocation or investment plans for particular housing or homelessness programs. The Plans should not only be about existing programs or focused on specific program outcomes.

### **Plan Details**

The City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) Plan builds on the community gains already achieved. The CGS has been working over a number of years to co-ordinate and harmonize local housing and homelessness services. In this regard, the City is well ahead of most communities having established a community network to deliver services. The CGS will continue to collaborate with its partners and stakeholders moving the housing and homelessness system to a more co-ordinated people centered system which is focused on achieving positive outcomes for individuals and families.

The goal of the CGS Housing and Homelessness Plan is to ensure systems are in place along the full housing continuum which facilitates citizen access to affordable housing.

The Plan's guiding principle is to continue to support community based delivery of housing and homelessness services.

The Housing and Homeless Plan complements the CGS Official Plan as well as other community policies such as the Housing First Strategy. The intent is to co-ordinate the on-going review of the Housing and Homelessness Plan with the Official Plan's 5 year review cycle. This will facilitate the creation of consistent community approaches and policies.

In preparing its Housing and Homelessness Plan, the CGS completed a Housing Background Study (the Study). The Study represents another joint effort between Planning Services, Social Services and Housing Services.

The Background Study provided information on the local housing market reflecting the most recent Census data and housing needs. This included a review of homelessness issues along with a review of the local social housing Registry wait list and issues surrounding victims of domestic violence. The need for accessible units, senior citizen housing needs and that of the aboriginal community were also examined. All this information helped set the context for the Plan's recommendations.

The Study also brought forward recommendations on the CGS Official Plan policies relating to the new provincial requirement for local second unit policies. These policies were brought forward to the CGS Planning Committee in October 2013.

The Study provided the platform for the local consultations required as part of the Housing and Homelessness Plan process. These involved over 140 individuals, including surveys of the general public, housing and homelessness stakeholders as well as interviews and focus group sessions with a wide range of private sector and not for profit stakeholders.

The robust community consultation process provided feedback and recommendations on how best

to address future needs.

The Background Study identified the following 6 priority areas. These have been included in the Housing and Homelessness Plan.

- There is a need to improve the housing options across the housing continuum
- There is a need to improve housing access and affordability for low income individuals and families
- There is a need to strengthen approaches to preventing homelessness, increase the diversity of emergency shelters options and support individuals with multiple barriers in obtaining and maintaining housing
- There is a need for additional supportive services coupled with permanent housing options
- There is a need to improve co-ordination, collaboration and partnerships among a broad range of stakeholders to address local needs
- There is a need to monitor and report on progress towards meeting the community's housing and homelessness objectives and targets

The Housing and Homelessness Plan (Appendix A) is attached. It includes specific actions which will be taken to address the above noted priorities over the next 10 years. The Plan also provides insights on how we will measure the success of the strategies vis a vis the community outcomes.

### **Next Steps**

Once Council has approved the Plan, it will be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for review. Implementation of the Plan will follow.

<b>Supporting Documents</b>	
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1. Appendix A, Housing & Homelessness Plan Nov2013	pdf

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