

# DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

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**Title:** Affordable Housing Working Group - Reporting

**Date Prepared:** September 24, 2020

**Report To:** Committee of the Whole

**Councillor and Role:** Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary, Housing

**Ward:** N/A

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## **Decision/Direction Required:**

That Council approve a new reporting process for the Affordable Housing Working Group (AHWG).

## **Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

In collaboration with Affordable Housing and the City Clerk's Office, the effectiveness of the existing Terms of Reference was recently discussed.

The group was established in 2018 for the purpose of implementing the City's 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy. In order to do so, discussions involve ongoing proposals, potential projects and information that is highly sensitive/confidential. Recognizing the importance of maintaining confidentiality, the Group employed the use of "in camera" to move items forward. This process has been problematic often resulting in premature disclosure of potential projects.

Through discussion and in consultation with the ATIPP Coordinator, we are seeking approval to no longer post the agendas and minutes publicly. We feel there is legitimate reason to stop doing so based on premature disclosures, intergovernmental issues, the risk to potential partnerships and policy issues.

Once an initiative and/or project under the City's 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy is ready to move forward, it will be presented to Council for approval thus eliminating any concerns re transparency.

It is important to note that the advisory committees function is very different than that of a working group. Simply put, an advisory committee is put together to provide opinions and feedback while a working group is established to get something done.

## **Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications: n/a

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2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:
  - Federal and Provincial Governments
  - End Homelessness St. John's
  - Community groups
  - Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
  - Canadian Home Builders Association
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:
  - City's 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy
4. Legal or Policy Implications:
  - As noted, there could be legal and policy implications if confidentiality is not maintained
5. Privacy Implications:
  - As noted, feedback was provided by the ATIPP Coordinator to ensure compliance with the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: n/a
7. Human Resource Implications: n/a
8. Procurement Implications: n/a
9. Information Technology Implications: n/a
10. Other Implications: n/a

**Recommendation:**

That Council approve a new reporting process for the Affordable Housing Working Group (AHWG).

### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Affordable Housing Working Group - Reporting.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 24, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**No Signature - Task assigned to Karen Chafe was completed by workflow administrator Maureen Harvey**

**Karen Chafe - Sep 24, 2020 - 3:59 PM**

**No Signature - Task assigned to Elaine Henley was completed by workflow administrator Maureen Harvey**

**Elaine Henley - Sep 24, 2020 - 3:59 PM**