

# INFORMATION NOTE

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<b>Title:</b>	Affordable Housing Strategy Annual Update
<b>Date Prepared:</b>	November 10, 2020
<b>Report To:</b>	Committee of the Whole
<b>Councillor and Role:</b>	Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary, Housing
<b>Ward:</b>	N/A

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## **Issue: Issue:**

Provide Council with an annual update on the City of St. John's Affordable Housing Strategy 2019-2028.

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

The City of St. John's approved the Affordable Housing Strategy, 2019-2028, in November 2018. The strategy will address the municipality's housing needs by working in step with partners, stakeholders, and residents to create and maintain safe, suitable and affordable housing throughout the city. The strategy is designed to be flexible and to address issues related to affordable housing as the cost of living, the housing market and vacancy rates fluctuate. This is an important feature given the unpredictable nature of COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the City's response to the pandemic, and in order to support vulnerable populations struggling with the pandemic's impacts, the City established public Wi-Fi access points at Bannerman Park and Victoria Park that are near non-market housing and outreach service locations. This helps to close the digital divide and allow residents to remain connected to health and support services. This initiative was made possible by the COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Vulnerable Populations, a collaboration between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canadian Medical Association Foundation, for which the City is a recipient.

Attached is an annual update on the affordable housing strategy's main areas of work and other housing-related initiatives that the City implemented to support residents during the pandemic.

## **Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications: Initiatives are outlined annually and considered within the budget planning process.

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2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: The City's Affordable Housing Strategy was built upon public and strategic stakeholder engagement, and the implementation continues to be guided and shaped by multi-stakeholder partnerships and processes.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: The Affordable Housing Strategy aligns with the Strategic Plan's vision and directions. Affordable Housing implementations actions work in tandem with the Municipal Plan and Development Regulations.
4. Legal or Policy Implications: N/A
5. Privacy Implications: N/A
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: An engagement process was carried out in the development of the Affordable Housing Strategy. Engagement processes continue to be carried out as required in relation to implementation actions.
7. Human Resource Implications: N/A
8. Procurement Implications: All purchasing of materials, supplies, equipment and services go through the Purchasing Department on a competitive basis, where possible and practical, at the lowest relative cost taking into consideration price, availability, quality and past performance.
9. Information Technology Implications: N/A
10. Other Implications: N/A

**Conclusion/ Next Steps:**

Planning has begun for 2021 to progress initiatives in the Affordable Housing Strategy

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**Approved by/Date:** Tanya Haywood, Deputy City Manager, Community Services

**Attachments:** Affordable Housing Strategy Annual Update 2020

### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Affordable Housing Strategy Annual Update 2020.docx
Attachments:	- Affordable Housing Strategy Annual Update 2020.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 16, 2020

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

**Judy Tobin - Nov 12, 2020 - 8:58 AM**

**Tanya Haywood - Nov 16, 2020 - 4:22 PM**