

INFORMATION NOTE

Title: Release of the Housing Needs Assessment Report

Date Prepared: 2019/06/17

Report To: Committee of the Whole

Councillor and Role: Councillor Jamieson

Ward: All Wards

Issue: Release of the Housing Needs Assessment Report

Discussion

Background

The City of St. John's adopted a new 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy for the City of St. John's in November 2018. In conjunction with the development of the new Affordable Housing Strategy, the Affordable Housing Working Group wanted to complete a Housing Needs Assessment for the City of St. John's. Funding to complete a housing needs assessment was provided by Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC), Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (NLHC), End Homelessness St. John's (EHSJ) and the City of St. John's.

The Housing Needs Assessment has multiple purposes, namely, to analyze supply and demand for housing, identify gaps, lay the foundation for supporting the Affordable Housing Strategy and develop new initiatives.

The scope of the study included researching and analyzing information from a wide variety of sources, conducting stakeholder interviews, and conducting a community survey.

Developed with the help and input from many stakeholders, the Housing Needs Assessment also includes a "Non-Market Housing Inventory." The inventory includes important information on shelters, transitional housing, supported and affordable housing, as well as planned future projects.

Current Status

The final housing needs assessment report is complete. See attached summary of the report findings and recommendations. The full report is published on the City's website <http://www.stjohns.ca/publications> and will be widely circulated through the help of our partners.

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Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: NLHC (\$10,000), (\$10,000) CMHC, (\$5,000) EHSJ and the (\$10,000) City of St. John's
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: Implementation of the Affordable Housing Strategy 2019-2028 continues to be guided and shaped by multi-stakeholder partnerships and processes.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: The report supports the corporate strategic direction 'A Sustainable City' and is an initiative in the City's Affordable Housing Strategy 2019-2028
4. Legal or Policy Implications: Understanding the local housing needs will allow community leaders and policy makers to develop targeted affordable housing strategies
5. Privacy Implications: N/A
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: Report is published on the City's website and will be widely circulated through the help of our partners
7. Human Resource Implications: N/A
8. Procurement Implications: N/A
9. Information Technology Implications N/A
10. Other Implications N/A

Conclusion/ Next Steps:

The data and community inputs presented in the Housing Needs Assessment Report help identify specific needs in both market and non-market housing. Key recommendations have been prepared for consideration and will be explored by the Affordable Housing Working Group. To ensure that changes in the external environment are reflected in the AHS, housing needs updates will be conducted twice throughout the life of the 2019-2028 Affordable Housing Strategy.

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Attachments: Housing Needs Assessment- Final Report Summary

