

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Enhancing the link between housing and homelessness initiatives

Date Prepared: March 27, 2020

Report To: Regular Meeting of Council

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

Ward: N/A

Decision/Direction Required: To enhance the link between homelessness and affordable housing initiatives following the departure of EHSJ from the City

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

Background

From 2012- 2020, the Community Entity for St. John's was the City of St. John's, assuming the responsibility for contract and financial management through Reaching Home (formerly the Homelessness Partnering Strategy) and employing End Homelessness St. John's (EHSJ) staff. Over the past year, EHSJ has been undergoing a transition from being under the umbrella of the City of St. John's into a standalone nonprofit organization. As of April 1st, 2020, the transition of EHSJ into a standalone nonprofit organization will formally take effect.

Current status

With the departure of EHSJ from the City, the Affordable Housing Strategy will seek to enhance the link between homelessness and affordable housing initiatives.

The following two actions are proposed

1. The attached appendix be added to the Affordable Housing Strategy to outline the relationship of End Homelessness and the City of St. John's from 2020 forward.
2. The purpose of the Affordable Housing Working Group be changed to better represent the scope of advice to Council and collective work being accomplished. The AHWG proposes that the purpose statement in the working group's terms of reference be changed

ST. JOHN'S

From:

PURPOSE

The Affordable Housing Working Group is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of the 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy, 2019 to 2028. In implementing the Strategy, the Working Group is to consider relevant City policies and activities which impact the Strategy and ensure communication with the appropriate parties.

To:

PURPOSE

The Affordable Housing Working Group is responsible to provide advice to Council regarding housing system related policies, directives and strategies as well as implementation of the 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy, 2019 to 2028. In implementing the Strategy, the Working Group is to consider relevant City policies and activities which impact the Strategy and ensure communication with the appropriate parties. The working group will ensure that there is a comprehensive understanding of housing, affordable housing and homelessness issues and initiatives.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: None anticipated at this time.
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. The City of St. John's will continue to partner with EHSJ moving forward, in particular as it relates to objectives outlined under the City's Affordable Housing Strategy.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: The City of St. John's Affordable Housing Strategy, 2019-2028, outlines a commitment to continue to support the work of End Homelessness St. John's.
4. Legal or Policy Implications: As of April 1st, 2020, EHSJ exists separately from the City of St. John's as a standalone nonprofit organization.
5. Privacy Implications: None anticipated at this time.

6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: The City's Communications and OPS departments are aware, involved and supportive of the work being completed under the Affordable Housing Strategy.
7. Human Resource Implications: None anticipated at this time.
8. Procurement Implications: None anticipated at this time.
9. Information Technology Implications: None anticipated at this time.
10. Other Implications: None anticipated at this time.

Recommendation:

That Council enhances the link between homelessness and affordable housing initiatives following the departure of EHSJ from the City. To do so, an appendix will be added to the Affordable Housing Strategy and the Affordable Housing purpose statement in its Terms of Reference will change to reflect an expanded scope.

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Tanya Haywood, Deputy City Manager Community Services

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Enhancing the link between housing and homelessness initiatives.docx
Attachments:	- Proposed Homelessness and Affordable Housing Appendix.docx
Final Approval Date:	Mar 30, 2020

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

Judy Tobin - Mar 27, 2020 - 2:56 PM

Tanya Haywood - Mar 30, 2020 - 4:56 PM