



## SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>Housing Services Homelessness Prevention and Children's Services</b>
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>Kelly Hall, Manager Melissa Fitzpatrick, Manager</b>
<b>REVIEWED BY:</b>	<b>Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Ronald G. Van Horne, Chief Administrative Officer</b>
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	<b>May 20, 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Housing and Homelessness Plan 5-Year Review</b>

### **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on November 27, 2013, County Council supported the following motion from the October 16, 2013 Committee P.M. meeting:

*#4: Foubister/MacDougall:*

- a) *That the County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan 2014 – 2023 be approved.*
- b) *That staff be directed to advise Lambton County Council on any substantive changes that are recommended by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing review which have the potential to impact future levy contributions.*
- c) *That barring substantive changes recommended by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, staff be provided with the authority to implement the recommendations contained within the County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan 2014 – 2023.*

*Carried.*

The *Housing Services Act, 2011* requires Service Managers to review the Housing and Homelessness Plan at least once every five years. The review process provides an opportunity to engage the broader community, re-assess local needs and priorities as well as identify potential strategies to achieve outcomes.

This report details the review process and provides Council with an update regarding the County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan.

## **DISCUSSION**

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 5-Year Review of the Housing and Homelessness Plan was issued on July 3, 2019. The deadline to submit responses was July 24, 2019 and four responses were received. An Evaluation Committee which included the General Manager of Social Services, Manager of Housing Services, Manager of Ontario Works and the Manager of Planning and Development Services, was formed and the members met to review and score each submission independently. The RFP was awarded to Vink Consulting Inc.

Staff worked closely with Vink Consulting throughout the review process. A vital component to the review was a comprehensive community engagement strategy. Numerous focus groups, small group discussions, telephone interviews, an on-line survey and a community workshop took place.

After extensive community consultations and a study of best practices, the updated County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan (2020 - 2024) outlines a new vision, guiding principles, goals, objectives and targets that meet the needs of our community.

The revised vision “Every person has an affordable, suitable and adequate home,” is supported by four goals;

Goal 1: Increase and sustain supply and appropriate mix of affordable housing.

Goal 2: Increase access to affordable housing and supports that meet people’s needs to achieve housing stability.

Goal 3: Coordinated housing and homelessness service system.

Goal 4: Ending Homelessness.

Each goal has key milestones to achieve with the main milestones to be the reduction of chronic and episodic homelessness by 50% by 2024 and achieving functional zero for chronic homelessness by 2025. Additional details are found in the Housing and Homelessness Plan attached as Appendix A.

As required by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), the attached Plan, Best Practices and Needs Reports were submitted to the Ministry for review on January 17, 2020. On March 24, 2020, the MMAH acknowledged receipt of the amended plan and extended best wishes to the County for the successful implementation of the plan.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The approval of this recommendation will have no financial impact on the County budget. In order to achieve many of the recommendations included in the Housing and Homelessness Plan investment from the County of Lambton, other levels of government and community partners will be required, and any requests for funding will be brought to Council in future reports for consideration.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

Consultations have taken place with community groups, community agencies, consumers, local municipal staff and politicians, housing providers, Lambton County Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee and County staff from various departments including Homelessness Prevention and Children's Services, Ontario Works, Housing Services, Planning and Development Services and Building Services.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Updating the Housing and Homelessness Plan is a legislated initiative delivered in keeping with the County's Mission to promote an enhanced quality of life through the provision of responsive and efficient services accomplished by working with municipal and community partners.

The activities of the Division support the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Advocating in a manner that raises the profile of the County and its needs in order to secure improved government supports, funding, grants, and other resources.
- Developing programs and initiatives that address poverty reduction and promote social belonging.
- Planning for and responding to the ever-changing needs of an aging population, homelessness and retaining young people in the community while supporting their transition to being employed community members and future leaders.
- Actively pursuing joint opportunities with community partners that contribute to the well-being of the Lambton Community.

## **CONCLUSION**

The County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024 sets a strategic direction for housing and homelessness work over the next five year period. The plan reflects the anticipated needs of the County of Lambton and will require strong leadership and creativity, along with community and political support to be successful.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- a) That the County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024 be approved.**
- b) That staff be provided with the authority to implement the recommendations contained within the County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024.**