

**COUNCIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER  
TO OUR FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

November 12, 2021

Ms. Mary Birch  
Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk  
County of Essex  
360 Fairview Avenue West  
Essex, Ontario  
N8M 1Y6

Dear Ms. Birch,

Windsor City Council, at its meeting held November 1, 2021 adopted the following resolution:

Decision Number: CR482/2021

That the correspondence from the County of Essex dated September 15, 2021 regarding the "Regional Affordable Housing Strategy and Review of Social Housing Cost Sharing Agreement" **BE REFERRED** to Administration to facilitate a strategic, closed session of Windsor City Council to review and consider this matter as part of the comprehensive list of cost shared items between the City of Windsor and the County of Essex; and further,

That the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation Board **BE REQUESTED** to provide City Council with information from their recent strategic planning discussions related to housing for consideration at this closed session.  
Carried.

Your consideration to Windsor City Council's resolution would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,



Steve Vlachodimos  
City Clerk and Senior Manager of Council Services  
SV/wf  
attachments

cc: Marina Clemens, Chair, Board of Directors, Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation  
Gary McNamara, Warden, County of Essex  
Sandra Bradt, Executive Issues Coordinator, Human & Health Services, City of Windsor  
Debbie Cercone, Executive Director, Housing & Children Services, City of Windsor  
Jelena Payne, Commissioner of Community Development and Health Services, City of Windsor



September 15, 2021

Windsor City Council  
c/o Steve Vlachodimos  
City Clerk  
350 City Hall Square West, Room 530  
Windsor, Ontario  
N9A 6S1

**VIA EMAIL** - [svlachodimos@citywindsor.ca](mailto:svlachodimos@citywindsor.ca); [clerks@citywindsor.ca](mailto:clerks@citywindsor.ca)

Dear Mayor Dilkens and City Councillors:

**Re: Regional Affordable Housing Strategy and Review of Social Housing Cost Sharing Agreement**

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More than ever before, residents of both the City of Windsor and County of Essex are struggling to find affordable housing options within the region. I think we can agree that we're experiencing an affordable housing crisis within the region and it's incumbent on the municipalities within the region to collaborate to develop a plan to address this crisis.

As the Service Manager for the region, Federal and Provincial funding opportunities do become available to you, however, we know they are often restrictive due to the tight deadlines which don't provide for ample time to develop proposals or to seek out private sector investors who may be able to offer some affordable housing partnership solutions.

At the August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting of County Council, a proposal to support an application for a Round 2 Rapid Housing Initiative in Leamington, by way of a 20-year commitment to fund operational costs, was presented by City Administration. County Council was supportive of the project and agreeable to the funding commitment, however, it was recognized that going forward, there is a need for a regional Affordable Housing Strategy to be developed so plans are in place when funding and partnership opportunities are presented.

## Subject of Letter Regional Affordable Housing Strategy and Review of Social Housing Cost Sharing Agreement

September 15, 2021

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Similarly, County Council received a presentation on June 16, 2021 from the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation, providing an update on the state of the Social Housing stock and the challenges in implementing its capital repair, renewal and asset maintenance program within the region.

County Council recognizes that, it has been twenty-two years since the funding formulas for Ontario Works, Child Care and Social Housing were arbitrated and with respect to Social Housing, it would be appropriate to review the existing funding agreement for regional Social Housing costs and develop a new cost sharing agreement or addendum to the existing agreement.

On behalf of Essex County Council, I would ask that City Council support the immediate commencement of discussions on the development of a Regional Affordable Housing Strategy, including funding responsibilities. I would also ask that City Council support the commencement of discussions on the review of the 1999 Social Housing Cost Sharing arbitrated agreement, with a view to addressing cost sharing provisions for new regional units and regional housing and homelessness initiatives.

As a region, I have no doubt that we can work collaboratively to find creative solutions to address the affordable housing crisis facing our residents.

Sincerely yours,



Gary McNamara  
Warden, County of Essex

### Attachment

CC: All County of Essex Municipal Councils  
Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer, County of Essex  
Jason Reynar, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Windsor

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