



Administrative Report

Office of the Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

To: Warden McNamara and Members of Essex County Council

From: Mary Birch, B.A., CMO
Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Subject: Housing and Homelessness Initiatives Update

Report #: 2022-0810-LCS-R018-MB

Purpose

To provide County Council with some updates regarding Housing and Homelessness matters for the region.

Background

Over the past several years, Essex County Council has been expressing concerns over the level of funding or investments, being allocated to the County of Essex for housing and homelessness initiatives / programs. This report provides some information from the City of Windsor, as the Consolidated Municipal Services Manager.

Discussion

- 1) On March 8, 2022, following direction from County Council, the CAO sent correspondence to the City of Windsor, as the Consolidated Municipal Services Manager, seeking detailed information on funding and initiatives of social housing and homelessness service provision by the City for the County. That letter was the third piece of correspondence sent to the City since September 15, 2021, with the first two letters requesting discussions on a regional affordable housing strategy and social housing cost sharing, as well as Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funding allocations.

A response letter dated May 17, 2022 was sent from Mayor Dilkens and Acting CAO Joe Mancina to Warden McNamara and CAO Mike Galloway. A copy of that correspondence is attached as **Appendix A**.

- 2) In March 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) announced a new Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) which came into effect on April 1, 2022. This program is a consolidation of several other programs that have been terminated effective March 31, 2022 including the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP) and Home for Good (HFG). The City of Windsor, as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager previously received funding for the region under CHPI and SCRSP, but not HFG.

The City of Windsor's planned funding allocation under HPP was set at \$12,470,100 for the period April 2022 to March 31, 2023. That represents an increase of \$647,957 over the allocation under CHPI and SCRSP in the prior year. The City was required to submit an Investment Plan for the HPP funding to the Ministry by April 15, 2022. City Council Report C 51/2022 and the subsequent Council Decision on that report (Decision Number 153/2022) are provided as **Appendix B and C**.

- 3) The Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee provided its Annual 2021 Report to City Council (SCM 90/2022). A copy of that Report with Highlights from Housing Services Resource Staff is attached as **Appendix D**. A delegation from the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee will attend the August 10th, 2022 meeting to present to Council and be available for questions on their Annual Report.
- 4) Discussions have commenced regarding plans to move forward with a Regional Affordable Housing Strategy. Kirk Whittal, Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services attended the July 22nd, 2022 Regional CAO's meeting and proposed the formation of a Working Group with representatives from all municipalities within the region. It is proposed that the services of a consultant would be sought to assist with the study which would look at best practices for municipalities wishing to increase their affordable housing supply. There was an allocation in the 2022 County Budget approved for the purpose of moving forward on an Affordable Housing Strategy.

Financial Implications

This report is being provided for information. While the attached reports and decisions from the City of Windsor have financial implications for the County of Essex, Essex County Council does not have the ability to affect those decisions.

Consultations

This report was prepared in consultation with Manager of Community Services, Jeanie Diamond Francis.

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive Report #2022-0810-LCS-R018-MB for information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Birch

Mary Birch, B.A., CMO, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

Concurred With,

Mike Galloway

Mike Galloway, MBA, CMO, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix Number	Title
Appendix A	Correspondence dated May 17, 2022 from the Mayor Drew Dilkens and Acting CAO Joe Mancini
Appendix B	City Council Report C 51/2022
Appendix C	City Council Decision re: Report C 51/2022
Appendix D	Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee (HHAC) Annual 2021 Report to City Council