

Advisory Committee Meeting – June 18, 2020

Council-in-Committee – July 14, 2020

Subject: Updated 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020-2030
Report Number: HSS 20-05
Division: Health and Social Services
Department: Haldimand Norfolk Social Services and Housing
Purpose: For Decision

Executive Summary:

In accordance with the *Housing Services Act*, 2011, the Social Services and Housing Department undertook a five-year review of the Haldimand and Norfolk 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan (HHP), commencing in the spring of 2019. The plan review process followed the project Terms of Reference, as approved by Norfolk County Council on May 14, 2019, and was completed with the assistance of SHS Consulting Inc. by the provincial deadline of December 31, 2019.

The purpose of the HHP review was to update the plan to reflect the current housing needs of the community and to identify strategies and actions that Haldimand and Norfolk Counties can undertake to meet these needs. The Housing Services team was the lead for the review project with the assistance of the consultant. The funding for this consultant was approved during the 2019 levy operating budget deliberations and was 100% funded from the social housing reserve, with no impact on the municipal levy for either County.

The purpose of this report is to present the draft final plan for consideration. The content of the staff report provides key highlights of the updated plan. SHS Consulting will deliver a presentation of the full plan for both Haldimand and Norfolk Councils.

Discussion:

The *Housing Services Act*, 2011 (Act) is Provincial legislation that governs the provision of community/social housing within Ontario. The Act has the primary purpose of ensuring the provision of community based planning and delivery of housing and homelessness services. The legislation identifies that it is a matter of provincial interest that there be a system of housing and homelessness services that works within the framework of 12 identified functions. The Act identifies that each Service Manager shall have a Plan to address housing and homelessness.

The 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan (HHP) for Haldimand and Norfolk Counties was presented in July and August of 2013 to the Advisory Committee and then to Council for approval in its draft form in order that it could be provided to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) by September 1, 2013 for Ministerial review and comment. The Plan was then submitted to the Province by December 31, 2013 for final approval.

In accordance with the Act, at least once every five years, Service Managers are required to review its housing and homelessness plan and amend it as the Service Manager considers necessary or advisable. Updating the HHP offers an opportunity to reflect on and offer suggestions towards the system of housing and homelessness in order to improve outcomes within the context of Haldimand and Norfolk.

The core objective is to meet the requirements of the *Housing Services Act, 2011* through a comprehensive review of the Haldimand-Norfolk 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan incorporating community engagement to ensure updates and revisions are reflective to the needs of the Service Manager area.

The proposed updated Haldimand and Norfolk Housing & Homelessness Plan is attached as Appendix A to this report. The content of this staff report provides brief highlights of the content within the full Updated HHP.

Housing Gaps in Haldimand & Norfolk

Although there has been some limited development of new affordable housing within Haldimand and Norfolk, which was made possible through the various federal – provincial programs, the needs assessment completed by SHS Consulting as part of the HHP review indicates that there are a number of housing system gaps. They are summarized as follows (please refer to the full Updated HHP for greater detail, Appendix A):

1. There is a need for affordable rental housing options for households with low-incomes and priority populations.
2. There is a need for a broader range of dwelling types, tenures and uses throughout Haldimand and Norfolk.
3. There is a need for additional supportive housing units for people who need housing with supports to live with dignity and as independently as possible.
4. There is a need for more emergency and transitional housing options and supports for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Community Engagement

As part of the review process, multiple types of engagement sessions were organized in order to provide a variety of opportunities for stakeholders, members of the public, and those with clients with various types of lived experience were able to provide their input. In total, seven sessions, facilitated with various groups and in various locations between Haldimand and Norfolk were conducted by SHS Consulting. The findings and feedback gathered from these sessions was further presented and validated through a working-

session with the Haldimand and Norfolk Advisory Committee along with various staff and stakeholders on the Housing & Homelessness Plan Advisory Committee.

All of these findings formed part of the final vision, goals, foundational actions, and actions presented as part of the Updated HHP. Additionally, this input assisted in the prioritization of each item within the proposed Implementation Plan.

Housing Action Plan & Recommended Key Directions

Based on the input and analysis completed during the course of the project, the following are presented as the updated Vision, Housing Goals, Foundational Actions; and Actions:

Housing Vision: Communities in Haldimand and Norfolk Counties are complete, inclusive and interconnected communities which have safe, adequate and appropriate housing and support services for all residents to live with dignity.

Housing Goals:

Goal 1: To encourage a broad range of dwelling types and tenures which meet the needs of current and future residents of Haldimand and Norfolk Counties.

Goal 2: To ensure there is an adequate and appropriate supply of rental housing for households with low incomes and priority population groups.

Goal 3: To ensure there are sufficient options for housing with supports to facilitate aging in place and for people who require supports to live with dignity and as independently as possible.

Goal 4: Ensure a person-centered housing, homelessness and support system is in place where all housing and homelessness service providers are working in collaboration so that everyone who needs help is able to access it in a timely manner and functional zero end to homelessness is achieved.

Within the HHP, each Goal has specific “actions” which are prioritized for action and, in the Implementation Plan section, assigned a timeline, lead agency, and other potential agency involvement. The HHP also identifies progress reporting with a summary of outcomes and targets, as well as specific measures related to each Housing Goal.

In addition to actions linked to each “Housing Goal”, the HHP also identifies two specific Foundational Actions. The first Foundational Action is to develop a Housing and Homelessness Plan Implementation Committee to guide the implementation of the Plan. The purpose of the committee is to meet on a regular basis and to help coordinate and oversee the implementation of the HHP as approved by the Service Manager. It is recommended that the Committee be made up of decision makers from different community agencies, community housing providers, and staff from Haldimand and Norfolk Counties. It is further recommended that the Committee include three people with lived or living experience of homelessness or housing instability or who represent a

population group who is more likely to be facing housing issues in Haldimand or Norfolk, as identified in the research.

The second Foundational Action is to create a Haldimand Norfolk “Yes in My Backyard (YIMBY) Team” to lead efforts related to education, raising awareness, community engagement, and advocacy. Ideally, this group would be made up of representatives from some housing partners as well as champions from the community. This could be a sub-committee of the overall Implementation Committee.

Financial Services Comments:

Norfolk

There are no direct financial implications within the report as presented.

The Approved 2019 Levy Supported Operating Budget includes \$50,000 as a one-time initiative for the HHP review, funded from the Social Housing Reserve. The reserve is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 - Social Housing Reserve

2018 Audited Actuals	\$262,970
2019 Unaudited Actuals (based on the Approved Budget)	\$173,970
2029 Projected Balance (based on the 2020 Capital Plan)	\$10,570

The \$50,000.00 budget for the HHP review includes actuals of \$39,612.29 (unaudited). Without any additional expenses, this would result in a surplus of \$10,387.71.

Haldimand

Haldimand Finance staff have reviewed this report and agree with the information provided by Norfolk Financial Services. Any future initiatives resulting from implementation of the plan should be ranked and evaluated during the appropriate budget process.

Interdepartmental Implications:

Norfolk

Haldimand

A presentation of the Housing and Homelessness Plan to Haldimand County Council in Committee is tentatively scheduled for March 31, 2020.

Consultation(s):

Extensive consultation occurred as part of the HHP Review. Details of the consultation are outlined in sections entitled “Community Engagement” and “What We Heard” of the Plan.

Strategic Plan Linkage:

This report aligns with the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Priorities “Foster Vibrant, Creative Communities”.

In accordance with the *Housing Service Act*, 2011, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers are required to have a 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, and are further required to review these Plans every five years. The data and evidence collected as part of the HHP Review enabled the creation of specific recommendations in relation to housing needs within the community. The HHP is a foundational document which includes an implementation strategy intended to assist Council in decision-making towards the creation of vibrant, creative communities.

Conclusion:

The purpose of this report is to gain Council approval to the Updated Haldimand and Norfolk 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020-2030. The review process followed the approved Terms of Reference and was completed with the assistance of SHS Consulting with the final draft document being submitted to the province by the December 31, 2019 deadline.

The Plan includes a summary of housing needs in Haldimand and Norfolk as well as the findings from engagements with residents, people with lived experience, and key housing stakeholders in both Counties. Outcomes and recommended actions to achieve these outcomes have also been included in this Plan. The Housing Vision for the next ten years is that communities in Haldimand and Norfolk Counties are complete, inclusive and interconnected communities which have safe, adequate and appropriate housing and support services for all residents to live with dignity.

Recommendation(s) of Health and Social Services Advisory Committee:**Recommendation(s):**

THAT Staff Report HSS 20-05 Updated 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020-2030, be received as information;

AND THAT Council approve the Updated 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020-2030 as attached as Appendix A to Staff Report HSS 20-05;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to advise the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing of the approval of the Updated 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020-2030.

Attachment(s):

Appendix A: Proposed Updated 10-Year Housing & Homelessness Review 2020-2030

Submitted By:
Marlene Miranda
General Manager, Health and Social
Services
For more information, call:
519-426-6170 ext.3120

Reviewed By:
Heidy Van Dyk-Ellis, MPA
Director, Social Services and Housing
For more information, call:
519-426-6170 ext. 3122

Prepared By:
Tricia Givens, M.Sc. (PI), MCIP, RPP
Program Manager, Housing Services
For more information, call:
519-426-6170 ext. 3748