

October 22, 2019

Social Services Committee Report #2019-10-02

REPORT TO: Mayor and Members  
City Council

Your Social Services Committee submits the following recommendations from its meeting held on November 6, 2019:

- 1. Approval for a Compact Affordable Sustainable and Efficient (CASE) Home Demonstration Project [Financial Impact: \$425,000], 2019-516**
  - A. THAT report 2019-516 Approval for a Compact, Affordable, Sustainable and Efficient (CASE) Home Demonstration Project BE RECEIVED; and
  - B. THAT staff BE AUTHORIZED to proceed with a CASE Home Demonstration Project utilizing funds from the Affordable Housing Reserve [RF0475], with a total construction cost not to exceed \$425,000; and
  - C. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to work with Purchasing to create a Request for Proposals that encourage alternative or creative construction and building practices to help achieve low construction costs; and
  - D. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to reserve and utilize part of the city-owned property extending from Gilkison to the corner of Stinson and Stirton Avenues as a location for the City of Brantford CASE Home Demonstration Project; and
  - E. THAT the Director of Housing, or designate, BE AUTHORIZED to sign, on behalf of the City of Brantford, as owner of the property identified in this report, all documents required in order to obtain the Site Plan, Site Alteration, Building Permit, Zoning, tendering and purchasing approvals, where necessary, for the CASE Home Demonstration Project; and
  - F. THAT all fees associated with Site Plan, Site Alteration, Building Permit, and Zoning approvals BE FUNDED from the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative Funding at no cost to the City of Brantford; and
  - G. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to continue to explore options with the County of Brant to proceed with a CASE Home Demonstration Program in the County of Brant in addition to the City of Brantford.

2. **Amendment to the Municipal Housing Facilities By-law (By-law #162-2003) to update the definition of “affordable housing” [Financial Impact - unknown], 2019-402**
  - A. THAT Council APPROVE an amendment to the Municipal Housing Facilities By-law #162-2003 to update the definition of “affordable housing”; and
  - B. THAT the necessary By-law BE PRESENTED to City Council for adoption.
  
3. **Emergency Shelter System Transition Update and Rosewood House funding for 2020 [Financial Impact: None], 2019-617**
  - A. THAT report 2019-617 Emergency Shelter System Transition Update BE RECEIVED; and
  - B. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to continue investigating alternative options for temporary winter emergency sheltering and bring a recommended option to Council for approval on an expedited basis.
  - C. THAT the GENERAL MANAGER, Health and Human Services, be DIRECTED to enter into an agreement with Rosewood House to operate 30 co-ed emergency shelter beds in 2020 under a block funding arrangement, representing an increase of 10 beds; and
  - D. THAT the City’s portion of the \$237,900 annualized cost for these beds BE FUNDED from the Council Priorities Reserve (RF0558) for 2020; and
  - E. THAT should there be a demonstrated, ongoing need for the 10 additional block funded beds beyond 2020, that Staff BE DIRECTED to include the annualized costs as an unavoidable increase to the 2021 Operating Budget.
  - F. THAT the CAO DIRECT STAFF to investigate opportunities within existing provincial legislation to mandate direct payment of the rental portion of Ontario Works assistance for all recipients residing in rental accommodations.
  - G. That the CAO DIRECT STAFF to investigate opportunities within existing provincial legislation to charge board and lodging for stays at emergency shelters and to direct such board and lodging portion of social assistance payments on behalf of recipients residing in emergency shelters to the municipality as a means of offsetting additional municipal costs associated with excessive emergency sheltering demand.

**4. Planned Response to the Provincial Funding Reduction to the Ontario Works Addictions Services Initiative (ASI) Program –Update [Financial Impact: \$332,251], 2019-611**

THAT Report 2019-611 Planned Response to the Provincial Funding Reduction to the Ontario Works Addictions Services Initiative (ASI) Program Update [Financial Impact: \$332,251 Reduction to the Ontario works 2020 Operating Budget Comprised of \$311,651 City Portion and \$20,600 County Portion] BE RECEIVED.

**5. Brantford-Brant Community Conversation on Homelessness Summary Report [Financial Impact: None], 2019-667**

That Report 2019-667 Brantford-Brant Community Conversation on Homelessness Summary Report BE RECEIVED.

**6. Housing Partnerships Task Force**

WHEREAS the City of Brantford is the provincially appointed Service Manager for Housing in the City of Brantford and the County of Brant; and

WHEREAS Brantford City Council and the County of Brant has identified housing as a key priority within its 2019-2020 Council Priorities; and

WHEREAS access to affordable housing improves the economic stability, health and well-being of individuals and families in Brantford and the County of Brant; and

WHEREAS a review of the 10-Year Housing Stability Plan indicates that the community must accelerate the development of affordable housing units to maintain current service levels; and

WHEREAS addressing the development of affordable housing solutions requires the creativity, effort and investment of all levels of government, community agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS feedback from the Community Conversation on Homelessness held September 23, 2019 highlighted the need for political and organizational leadership to support affordable housing solutions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT a Housing Partnerships Task Force BE ESTABLISHED comprised of the following members:

City of Brantford Mayor (Ex-officio)  
County of Brant Mayor (Ex-officio)  
Chair of the Social Services Committee  
(1) County of Brant Council Representative

- (1) Representative from Habitat for Humanity Brant – Norfolk
- (1) Representative from Brantford Native Housing
- (1) Representative from East Hamilton Kiwanis Non-Profit Homes
- (1) Representative from Victoria Park Community Homes
- (1) Representative from Jaycees
- (1) Representative from Indewell
- (1) Representative from The Mustard Seed
- (1) Representative from Brantford Home Builders' Association
- (1) Representative from the BRISC – Indigenous Friendship Centre
- (1) Representative from the Brantford-Brant Chamber of Commerce
- (1) Representative from the Ecumenical and Interfaith Chaplaincy Advisory Committee
- (1) Representative from Nova Vita

B. THAT the deliverables of the Task Force BE ESTABLISHED as follows:

- i. Develop partnerships with non-profit, faith-based and private sector stakeholders to accelerate the development of affordable housing;
- ii. Develop a twelve-month Task Force Action Plan that outlines how the Task Force can be a catalyst for the development of affordable housing in the City of Brantford and County of Brant.

C. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to provide a report detailing the Task Force Action Plan to the Social Services Committee in March 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Weaver, Chair