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Date March 2, 2021 **Report No.** 2021-159

To Chair and Members
Committee of the Whole – Operations and Administration

From Aaron Wallace
Acting General Manager, Community Services & Social Development

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item ☐
Item For Consideration ☒

2.0 Topic **Community Safety and Well-being Plan: Draft Priorities [Financial Impact: None]**

3.0 Recommendation

- A. THAT Report 2021-159 Community Safety and Well-being Plan: Draft Priorities BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT Staff BE DIRECTED to develop the final Community Safety and Well-being Plan based on the draft priorities as outlined in the Analysis Section of this report; and
- C. THAT Staff BE DIRECTED to present the final Community Safety and Well-being Plan to Council for review and approval in June 2021.

4.0 Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a status update regarding the provincially mandated Community Safety and Well-being Plan (CSWP), and summarizes the draft priorities recommended by the Community Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee. If approved, these priorities will form the foundation of the final

Community Safety and Well-being Plan to be presented to City Council for approval in June 2021.

5.0 Purpose and Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide a status update regarding the provincially mandated Community Safety and Well-being Plan, including draft priorities and updated timelines.

6.0 Background

On March 9, 2018 the Provincial Legislature passed Bill 175, Safer Ontario Act, 2018, requiring all municipalities to develop a Community Safety and Well-being Plan. This legislation directs municipalities to identify local priorities, and to work with community partners to develop projects and programs to create positive, measurable outcomes in these areas.

The Safer Ontario Act, 2018, Part XIII, Section 187 stipulates that City Council must formally approve the creation of an Advisory Committee that will support the development of the municipal plans, and that membership must include representation from the health, education, social services, children and youth services, municipal and police sectors.

In August 2019, Council approved the following:

- A. THAT Staff Report 2019-418, Approval of the Community Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee, BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT, as required under Section 187 of the Bill 175, Safer Ontario Act, 2018, staff BE DIRECTED to prepare the necessary by-law to amend Chapter 26 of the City of Brantford Municipal Code to establish a Community Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee with the mandate to lead, implement and monitor a Community Safety and Well-being Plan for the City of Brantford comprised of the following members:
 - Mayor Kevin Davis, City of Brantford (ex-officio)
 - Robert Davis, Chief of Police, Brantford Police Services
 - James Yuhasz, Campus Manager (Brantford) Conestoga College Institute of Advanced Learning
 - Heidi Northwood, Senior Executive Officer, Wilfrid Laurier University, Brantford Campus

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- Kim Baker, Director of Clinical Services, St. Leonard's Community Services
 - Flora Ennis, Director of Services, Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services
 - Constance McKnight, Executive Director, De dwa da dehs nye>s, Aboriginal Health Centre
 - Michael Benin, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association, Brant Haldimand Norfolk
 - Peter Szota, Executive Director, Grand River Community Health Centre
 - David McNeil, President and CEO, Brant Community Healthcare System
 - James Popham, Strategic Community Research Liaison, Centre for Research on Security Practices, Laurier Brantford
 - Dr. Elizabeth Urbantke, Medical Officer of Health, Brant County Health Unit
 - Councillor Rick Carpenter, Member of the Brant Elder Abuse Committee
 - Trevor Rumble, Member of the Brantford Brant Chamber of Commerce
 - John O'Neil, Member of the Downtown Business Improvement Area
 - Colleen Goupil, Citizen Representatives
 - Terry Skoryk, Citizen Representatives
 - Heather MacDonald, Citizen Representatives

All Ontario municipalities were required to submit a Community Safety and Well-being Plan to the Ministry of the Solicitor General prior to January 1, 2021. However, following the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic the Province passed the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Protection Act, 2020, which amended the Police Services Act to allow the Solicitor General to prescribe a new deadline for the completion of the Community Safety and Well-being plans.

Upon consultation with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) the Province of Ontario has established a new deadline of July 1, 2021. A full project timeline is appended as *Appendix A: CSWP Project Timeline*.

6.1 The Role of the Municipality

A CSWP should align with other community strategies and priorities and identify opportunities to collaborate with community partners. However, the legislation does not provide municipalities with oversight authority of sectors beyond the municipal scope. Specifically, the CSWP will not create operational oversight of the policing, health care, education, criminal justice, public health, or mental health and addictions sectors.

In other communities, municipal plans that attempt to create this oversight have been largely unsuccessful or abandoned, primarily because they create confusion among the general public, expectations of municipal funding and frustration for community partners.

Instead, these plans should position the municipality to: 1) provide leadership in areas within the municipal scope (ex. housing, youth engagement, neighbourhood development) 2) advocate for needed resources and policy change in areas outside of the municipal scope (ex. mental health and addictions, primary care) and 3) commit to actively supporting the goals of existing community groups through collaborative projects and grant writing (ex. Brantford Regional Indigenous Support Centre, Grand River Council on Aging).

The draft priorities outlined below include these varying degrees of oversight including municipal operations (ex. by-law), advocacy (substance use) and opportunities for ongoing collaboration (ex. Ontario Health Team).

6.2 Complementary Corporate Plans

A holistic approach to community well-being must also include a focus on economic growth, cultural vibrancy, and environmental stewardship. Although the CSWP does not specifically address these themes, they are reflected in the complementary efforts and objectives of various corporate plans including:

- Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force
- Climate Change Action Plan
- Municipal Cultural Plan

- City of Brantford Official Plan

7.0 Corporate Policy Context

2021-2022 Council Priorities

All neighbourhoods in the City are safe, vibrant, attractive, and inclusive.

- Improve municipal capacity for by-law enforcement, including extended hours and expanded scope, to address concerns related to property standards, noise, nuisance, and compliance with COVID-19 regulations
- Continue to invest in downtown revitalization and advance the Downtown Master Plan
- Work with Brantford Police Service and other community partners to develop a long term, prevention-based approach to community safety that creates opportunity for local youth (Complete a Community Safety and Well-being Plan)
- Work with Brantford Police Service and other community partners to address short term needs associated with community safety, including CCTV cameras, increased police presence, and solutions to petty crime
- Develop a Youth Strategy, including opportunities for Youth Centre expansion

Social services support is provided to Brantford residents in need.

- Commence one or more additional housing developments, funded through proceeds from the disposition of municipal assets
- Together with health care partners, participate in the continued implementation of the Brantford-Brant Community Drugs Strategy
- Support the continued implementation of the Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy and other age-friendly initiatives

8.0 Input From Other Sources

Community Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Communications & Community Engagement Department

Facilities Management & Security Department

Property Standards & Bylaw Department

9.0 Analysis

9.1 Proposed Priorities

In October 2020, the Community Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee passed the following resolution:

- A. THAT the draft document outlining the Priorities of the Plan be accepted AND that City Staff BE DIRECTED to provide additional details and research on the draft priorities to inform the next stage of Community Safety and Well-being Plan development.

In February 2021, the Community Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee passed the following resolution:

- A. THAT the updated CSWP Project Timelines BE APPROVED;
and
- B. THAT Staff BE DIRECTED to present the draft CSWP Priorities to City Council for their review and approval.

The following priorities were endorsed by the above resolution:

- Safe and Vibrant Neighbourhoods
- Children and Youth
- Age-friendly Community
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Affordable Housing
- Substance Use

As outlined in *Appendix B: CSWP Priorities*, and highlighted below, these six priorities are based on the follow sources:

- 1) Review of City Council's 2021-2022 Council Priorities (see *Section 7.0: Corporate Policy Context*)

- 2) Review of Community Data, Strategic Plans and Past Consultations
- 3) Consultations with Key Stakeholders

The final plan, to be presented to Council in June 2021, will also include community feedback from a Let's Talk Brantford Campaign based on the identified priorities.

9.2 Review of Community Data, Strategic Plans and Past Consultations

Staff collected data and information from various local, provincial, and federal data sets to inform the development of the CSWP, including Statistics Canada, Ontario Public Health, and Brant County Health Unit.

Existing community plans and strategies were also reviewed to ensure alignment:

- Mayors' Housing Partnership Task Force Action Plan
- Brantford-Brant 10-year Housing Stability Plan
- Brant Vital Signs Report
- Brantford-Brant Community Drug Strategy
- Healthy Aging: City of Brantford Age Friendly Plan
- Brantford Downtown Master Plan
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Right Now A Community Strategy to Prevent and Address Elder Abuse
- Together for Youth – A Coordinated Youth Services Strategy for the City of Brantford and the County of Brant
- A Review of Homeless Shelter and Housing with Supports System in the City of Brantford
- Brantford Police Services Strategic Plan
- Brant Community Healthcare System Strategic Plan

These existing plans were informed by extensive community consultation and represents over 4500 residents including individuals with lived experience of mental health, addictions and/or homelessness, youth,

seniors, newcomers, service providers, and community leaders. A further 500 residents were consulted in a 2019 phone poll about their perceptions of safety conducted in collaboration with the *Laurier Centre of Research on Security Practices*. The results were presented to the Advisory Committee for their consideration in October 2020. The collective feedback from these consultations has informed the decisions and direction of the Advisory Committee.

9.3 Consultations with Key Stakeholders

Consultation sessions were conducted with Advisory Committee members and their staff teams to establish key priority areas for the CSWP. Consultations with Advisory Committee members were conducted before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as after, to reflect any possible changes.

Members of Brantford City Council were also invited to meet with staff and provided their insights, perspectives, and recommendations.

Additionally, staff will continue to engage with Advisory Committee members and other community stakeholders and subject matter experts, including:

- Brantford Brant Ontario Health Team
- Brantford Immigration Partnership
- Brant Regional Indigenous Support Centre
- Best Start Network
- Children and Youth Leadership Table
- Grand River Council on Aging
- Elder Abuse Awareness Committee
- Nova Vita Domestic Violence Prevention Services

9.4 Let's Talk Brantford

In addition to the consultation and strategic plan review process noted above, it is important that residents have a further opportunity to provide feedback regarding how to address these draft priorities. In March 2021 staff will launch a Let's Talk Brantford Campaign with a goal of collecting programs, projects and partnership ideas that will inform the final version

of Community Safety and Well-being Plan, to be provided to Council for approval in June 2021.

9.5 Next Steps

This report provides only the draft priorities as recommended by the Advisory Committee, and identifies preliminary actions within each priority area. The final Community Safety and Well-being Plan will include the following:

- Key Initiatives
- Implementation Plan
- Evaluation and Measurement Plan
- Communications And Community Engagement Plan (ongoing)
- Reporting and Review Timelines

10.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications related to this report. Staff has repeatedly inquired to the Ministry of the Solicitor General to determine if annual funding will be provided to municipalities to implement these plans. At present there is no funding commitment from the Province, however it appears that there may be grant or other one-time funding opportunities made available on a project or program basis.

11.0 Conclusion

Staff continues to work in collaboration with the Community Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee to guide the development of the provincially mandated CSWP. This report provides six draft priorities that have been informed by consultations, community data, and existing community plans. Upon approval of these draft priorities, staff will conduct further community engagement and provide a final plan for Council's review in June 2021.



Aaron Wallace, Acting General Manager
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Prepared By:

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Attachments:

Appendix A: CSWP Project Timeline

Appendix B: CSWP Priorities

Copy to: N/A

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required ☐ yes ☒ no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk ☐ yes ☒ no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? ☐ yes ☒ no