



Report

Subject: 2023 Annual Report - Homelessness Task Force

Department: Community Services

Division: CMS

Report #: CMS-2023-039

Meeting Date: 2023-11-13

Recommendations

That report CMS-2023-039 regarding the 2023 Annual Report – Homelessness Task Force be received.

Background and Analysis

The Homelessness Task Force (HTF) is comprised of seven (7) members, including two (2) members of Council, and five (5) members of the general public with service sector experience in the areas of:

- Housing and outreach
- Emergency shelters, drop-ins
- Mental health, addiction
- Legal services
- Youth outreach

As well, individuals with lived experiences have been scheduled to join the committee to offer their insight and recommendations.

The Task Force has been formed to advise and explore options and to work with stakeholders relating to homelessness/near homelessness issues in the Town of Orangeville. The Task Force's goals and objectives are to get a better understanding of the situation and how it impacts the community. Once the situation has been assessed, the HTF will develop action items and validate these actions against recently conducted needs assessments.

The task force has identified four (4) key areas of concern with respect to the homelessness issues occurring in the Town of Orangeville:

1. **Zoning Land Use and Planning Policies** – Review the Official Plan and make recommendation to adjust land use policies to allow for more affordable housing.
2. **Facility Use** – Recommend the Town review facility use and provide safe, temporary spaces for homeless population within facilities, specifically during hours when the homeless shelter is not open.
3. **Advocate for Homeless/Near Homeless Individuals** – Advocacy is not only to the Town, but on a Federal/Provincial/County level. As a group, the Task Force is to attend council meetings to express the concern the community is facing and request assistance at every level of government.
4. **Affordable Housing** – Assemble a sub-committee to address gaps in housing stock and to define what affordable housing is.

The HTF has prepared an annual workplan (Attachment 1) which outlines the various issues the task force will focus on for 2024.

The HTF typically meets on a monthly basis and has had four (4) meetings up to the end of October, with two (2) more meetings to be held in 2023. Throughout the term of the HTF, recommendations will be made to Council for their consideration.

Strategic Alignment

Strategic Plan

Strategic Goal: Community Vitality

Objective: Well-Being – Support citizen and staff health, security and well-being

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

Theme: Social Well-being

Strategy: Ensure residents have access to affordable housing and community services; contribute to County initiatives that address poverty and homelessness at the source

Notice Provisions

N/A

Financial Impact

There is no specific budget allocating for the Homelessness Task Force (HTF). An immediate need for funding has not been identified to-date.

Respectfully submitted

Prepared by

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Services

Attachment: 1. 2024 Homelessness Task Force Workplan