

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

To: Chair Ryan and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

From: Anna McGregor, Director of Community Services

Meeting Date: April 22, 2021

Subject: **Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update 3**

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives:

Good Governance - ensure transparency, clear communication, prudent financial management

Inclusive and Supportive Community – support efforts to address current and future needs for a livable community

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to submit for approval, Dufferin's first Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Background and Discussion

The Provincial Government enacted legislation through the Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019, requiring municipal governments to adopt Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plans. The legislation stated that every municipal council was required to develop and adopt these plans by working in partnership with a multi-sectoral advisory committee, effective January 1, 2019 and to be completed by January 1, 2021.

The County of Dufferin was recognised as the lead for the coordination and development of the Dufferin CSWB Plan, as detailed in report CS 2019-08-22 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. The County engaged Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit to be the consultant to complete the Dufferin CSWB Plan.

Details can be found in report CS 2019-11-28 Single Source Consultant – Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. Work began in January 2020.

On April 14, 2020, the Provincial government passed the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Protection Act, 2020. This amended the Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, to allow the Solicitor General to prescribe a new deadline for the completion and adoption of CSWB plans after January 1, 2021. At that time no new deadline was established.

After Public Health realigned their resources to deal with the pandemic, there was a change of consultant in September 2020. Details can be found in report CS 2020-09-24 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update.

The Provincial government recognized the pandemic had created unprecedented challenges for communities across Ontario and on December 24, 2020 the Provincial government advised municipalities a new deadline of July 1, 2021, as detailed in report HHS 2021-01-28 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update 2.

Creating the Plan

Despite the unforeseen challenges the pandemic created, Dufferin continued to move forward with work on the plan. The Advisory Committee met several times, with ongoing support from the consultant, Jennifer Kirkham.

The Advisory Committee reviewed survey data gathered from the general public and local community partners, reviewed, local demographic and service data, and then built the physical plan which identifies strategic partners for implementation of the plan. Dufferin has been able to build upon many existing partnerships and collaborations. Many of the strategic partner agencies are already part of the Advisory Committee.

The first Dufferin County Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (2021-2024) is attached for review.

Plan Submission

Before the plan is submitted and made available to the local community, it requires approval from County Council and the lower tiers. The County helped to facilitate and lead the creation of the plan and as such, is the first step in that approval process.

Once approval at the County level has been received, the plan would follow each of the lower tier's approval processes.

At this time there is no formal process for submitting completed plans to the Province. Municipalities are required to make their plans available to their community within 30 days of approval.

The County of Dufferin have an existing area of the County web site dedicated to the work of the CSWB Plan and can post the approved plan there, to ensure it is available to the wider community. Copies of the plan will also be made available in paper and accessible formats, as required. In addition to making the plan available to the community, upon approval from each of the member municipalities, the County will send a copy to the office of the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

Moving Forward

Once the plan has been approved, the existing Advisory Committee will, (as noted in the plan on page 11), convert into a new Integration Table, to ensure the priority areas identified in the plan are addressed. County staff will facilitate that work, creating a meeting timetable and plan for next steps.

In addition to the ongoing engagement and input from the Lead Tables, which include the County of Dufferin Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Advisory Committee, the Integration Table will look to increase their membership, ensuring the necessary expertise is present within the group to tackle emerging areas of work.

As noted on pages 8 and 17 of the plan, "Join In Dufferin" will be utilised to assist with ongoing engagement activities.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

The initial costs for the development of a County wide CSWB came from the Rate Stabilization Reserve from the 2020 budget year. However, there have been no funding announcements to support the implementation of the plans, the review of the plans or the creation of updated plans.

At this time, many of the areas of work identified in the plan for implementation will be addressed by existing committees and planning tables.

More resources will be needed to conduct annual reviews of the plan and to make available the information from that work. Those resources currently do not exist within the Community Services Department. Additional funding will be required in order to retain consultancy services, to assist with that work.

Recommendation

THAT the report of the Director, Community Services dated April 22, 2021, titled Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update 3, be received;

AND THAT Council approve the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan;

AND THAT staff be directed to forward the approved Plan to each lower tier municipalities for their review and approval;

AND THAT Council approve up to \$15,000 to be set aside from the Rate Stabilization Reserve, in 2021, to assist with ongoing administration costs for the review and updates to the plan.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Anna McGregor
Director, Community Services

Attachment – Dufferin County Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (2021 – 2024)