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Town of Aurora
Council Report
No. CA024-005

Subject: Location for a Men's Transitional Shelter Update

Prepared by: Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer

Department: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Date: December 10, 2024

Recommendation

1. That Report No. CA024-005 be received for information.

Executive Summary

At the February 27, 2024 Council Meeting, a motion was approved that requested staff to proactively work with York Region staff to identify three potential viable sites for alternative housing in Aurora, and report back to Council before the end of 2024.

Council has received email updates and verbal updates since the motion was passed. At the request of Council, this report summarizes the information in the updates.

- In March 2024, Regional Council approved a review of Regionally-owned buildings to identify underused or unused properties and assess their potential for repurposing, including for supportive housing.
- Regional Council approved the 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan and Rapid Deployment Actions in June, 2024.
- Further York Region staff efforts are taking place to examine viable locations in Aurora across all nine local municipalities.

Background

Council passed a motion on February 27, 2024 requesting staff work with York Region staff to identify three potential sites for alternative housing in Aurora.

On the February 27, 2024 Council Meeting, a motion was approved that requested staff to proactively work with York Region staff to identify three potential viable sites for alternative housing in Aurora, and report back to Council before the end of 2024.

An email update was provided to Council on September 8, 2024.

A verbal update was provided to Council in the New Business portion of the Council meeting on October 22, 2024.

A second email update was provided to Council on November 11, 2024.

A further update was provided at the December 2, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting through report [CS24-035 – Pending List](#).

At the request of Council, this report summarizes the information in the above updates.

Analysis

In March 2024, Regional Council approved a review of Regionally-owned buildings to identify underused or unused properties and assess their potential for repurposing, including for supportive housing.

At the York Region Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 7, 2024, Regional Council passed a motion to undertake a review of all Regionally-owned buildings for the purpose of identifying those that are under and/or unused and provide an analysis of those that can be potentially repurposed for other regional priorities including supportive housing.

In the report back to Regional Council on October 10, 2024 no feasible options were identified for residential conversion within the Region's current building portfolio.

Regional Council approved the 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan and Rapid Deployment Actions in June, 2024.

Regional Council approved a 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan and Rapid Deployment Actions at the June 27, 2024 Regional Council Meeting. This Plan outlines priority areas to enhance and align homelessness services including homelessness prevention, intervention, housing stability and strengthening a

coordinated system response with community partners. Identifying sites for new emergency and transitional housing was identified as a priority under the Region's Homelessness Services System Plan. Regional staff are reviewing site options across all nine local municipalities in the Region.

In recognition of this priority York Regional Council approved the 2025 Budget which includes Regional funding to enable development of 287 new emergency and transitional housing beds (two new projects, three replacement projects).

Further efforts are taking place to examine viable locations across all nine local municipalities

Town of Aurora planning staff have been working with Regional staff to examine viable locations in Aurora. In addition to these efforts, the Region's land strategy for the Men's Emergency and Transitional Housing project, and future emergency and transitional housing developments will rely on the work described above.

The Region is committed to a region-wide approach to finding viable sites that meet the needs of their program, and the region-wide population. To this end, the number of potential viable sites in Aurora is still to-be-determined and may be different than the resolution passed by Town Council.

Regional staff have indicated that the 14452 Yonge Street site is not being considered as part of the region-wide search for emergency and transitional shelter sites.

Advisory Committee Review

Not applicable.

Legal Considerations

There are no legal considerations as a result of this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Communications Considerations

There are no communications considerations as a result of this report.

Climate Change Considerations

None

Link to Strategic Plan

Providing transitional housing supports the Strategic Plan goal of Strengthening the Fabric of our Community by ensuring growth includes housing opportunities for everyone.

Alternative(s) to the Recommendation

1. Council provide direction

Conclusions

In response to the February 27, 2024, Council motion, this report consolidates updates provided to Council on efforts to identify viable sites for emergency and transitional housing in Aurora. Following the motion, York Regional Council initiated a review of underused properties for potential repurposing and approved the 2024-2027 Homelessness Service System Plan and Rapid Deployment Actions. Town planning staff have collaborated with regional staff to explore potential locations in Aurora. These efforts align with York Region's broader land strategy for emergency and transitional housing. The Region's commitment to a region-wide approach means the number of viable sites in Aurora remains to be determined and may differ from Council's initial resolution.

Attachments

None

Previous Reports

None

Pre-submission Review

Reviewed by Agenda Management Team via email

Approvals

Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer