

Background

The Ministry's of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Ministry) Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) was released in November 2010 to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the province and Service Managers with regards to the housing and homelessness system (System) in Ontario and maintain provincial interests that are related to the City of Greater Sudbury Housing and Homelessness Plan (the Plan).

The Housing Services Act (HSA) came into effect in January of 2012 and requires Service Managers to develop and approve Plans, provides a list of provincial interests to be addressed in local plans and authorizes policy statements issued under the HSA to provide further direction to Service Managers. The Ministry released the Ontario Housing Policy Statement in August 2011 to provide policy context and direction to Service Managers in order to support the development of locally relevant Plans.

Plans were initially developed by Service Managers in consultation with local community members, service providers and other stakeholders, and came into effect on January 1, 2014. In 2016, the Ministry released the Policy Statement: Service Manager Housing and Homelessness Plans to update the 2011 Ontario Housing Policy Statement. The revised policy statement aligns provincial priorities with the 2016 update to the LTAHS and is reflected in the Plan.

The Plan addressed areas of provincial interest while guiding municipalities in creating a flexible, community centered housing and homelessness System. The City of Greater Sudbury's (City) Plan was adopted at the November 18, 2013 Community Services meeting and allowed for a range of housing options that met a broad range of housing needs while adhering to provincial policy. Under the HSA, the areas of provincial interests included a System of housing and homelessness that:

- focused on achieving positive outcomes for individuals and families;
- addressed the housing needs of individuals and families;
- identified roles for non-profit corporations and non-profit housing cooperatives;
- identified a role for the private market in meeting housing needs;
- provided partnerships among governments and others in the community;
- treated individuals and families with respect and dignity;
- collaborated with other community services;

- related to local circumstances;
- allowed for a range of housing options;
- ensured appropriate accountability for public funding;
- supported economic prosperity; and
- promoted environmental sustainability and energy conservation.

The Plan covered a planning horizon of no less than ten (10) years. HSA stipulates that, at least once every five (5) years, Service Managers must review their Plans and make amendments as necessary or advisable. As initial Plans were required to be approved on or before January 1, 2014, Service Managers initiated their five (5) year review of their Plans January 1, 2019.

On April 15, 2019 a report was presented to the Community Services Committee – City of Greater Sudbury Housing & Homelessness Plan 5 Year Update and provided Council with the processes underway to update the Plan. A review of the Plan provides an opportunity to engage the broader community, assess local needs and priorities and identify potential strategies to achieve outcomes. The five (5) year review process offers an opportunity for Service Managers to ensure that the Plan continues to reflect local context regarding housing and homelessness and ensures consistency with the HSA and the revised policy statement.