

Request for Decision



To: Committee of the Whole

From: **Manager of Development and Engineering Services**

Date: October 16, 2017

Subject: Housing First Homeless Initiative Partnership and Funding Opportunity.

Recommendation: **RESOLVED THAT the Committee of the Whole receives the presentation from Boundary Women's Coalition regarding a community-led funding application for developing a Housing First program to address housing challenges of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness; and further, THAT Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to have the City submit the letter in support of the application by the Boundary Women's Coalition to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Rural and Remote funding program, at the October 16, 2017 Regular Meeting.**

Background





- The City is facing challenges with rising numbers of people experiencing homelessness and associated mental health and addiction issues.
- A new partnership opportunity is developing to implement a 'Housing First' intervention program, with a potentially significant role for the City with regards to planning supports and program development.
- The Boundary Women's Coalition is applying for funding to develop a Housing First initiative in Grand Forks. The Coalition has requested the City to be a partner in the initiative and provide a letter of support to the funder committing the City's in-kind support to:
 - Participation by representation of Council and/or staff on a multi-agency committee to develop the program
 - Liaising with Boundary local governments and engaging the public regarding the initiative
 - Implementation of community planning tools to increase affordable rental housing stock (currently underway with Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw amendments)
 - Consideration of providing land and/or resources to partners in the Housing First initiative, as appropriate and at the discretion of Council.
- A draft of the letter of support will be provided to Council by the meeting date.

Benefits or Impacts

Request for Decision



Strategic Impact

-  Decisions regarding provision of land or resources in support of affordable housing will be fiscally prudent and will consider impacts on infrastructure and asset management.
-  Provision of affordable rental housing will support economic growth by enabling families and individuals to remain in the community.
-  This initiative is built on City-led community engagement regarding affordable housing and community-led (i.e. Phoenix Foundation) engagement events and studies.
-  Enabling and supporting a Housing First intervention for individuals experiencing homelessness will enable a better life for those individuals and will ease community concerns around homelessness.

Policy/Legislation

- Official Community Plan

Attachments

- Draft letter of support (to be supplied prior to Committee of the Whole meeting)

Recommendation

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Options

1. RESOLVED THAT Committee of the Whole accepts the report.
2. RESOLVED THAT Committee of the Whole does not accept the report.
3. RESOLVED THAT Committee of the Whole refers the matter back to staff for further information.