



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: **Environmental Scan – Langley City’s Priority Needs for Vulnerable Populations**

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From: Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: March 1, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive the Environmental Scan – Langley City’s Priority Needs for Vulnerable Populations report, dated January 26, 2022, from Dena Kae Beno of TRES Community Solutions for information.
2. THAT Council direct staff to develop a prioritized work plan to implement the strategies as outlined in the Environmental Scan – Langley City’s Priority Needs for Vulnerable Populations report.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to present the preliminary analysis to guide further discussion about the critical issues facing the community with respect to populations, who are experiencing homelessness, who are at risk of homelessness, or who are exiting homelessness.

POLICY:

Not applicable.

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

Social and homelessness issues have been top of mind in our community recently. Langley has the third highest homeless population in Metro Vancouver behind Vancouver and Surrey. Like other communities in the region, the City faces

challenges related to the housing and social support needs of vulnerable citizens, many of whom are mentally ill and suffer from substance use problems or a dual diagnosis. These challenges have heightened demand for local government involvement in social issues, despite the fact that municipalities generally have neither the mandate nor the resources to address the issues at hand.

Issues related to homelessness are complex and multi-faceted. The City cannot manage this issue alone – we need a community-owned solution to address social and homelessness issues for our residents. This will require commitment and partnership with the Province, businesses, social service agencies, the faith community, and our neighbouring communities, to develop an integrated approach to addressing these challenges and thus each organization does not work in silo from each other. It is also imperative that City Council and City staff are made aware of various programs and initiatives being considered, developed and implemented in the community and to proactively voice the City's position, whether it's positive or negative, with respect to these programs and initiatives.

To this end, the City retained TRES Community Solutions to prepare an environmental scan of critical issues facing the community with respect to populations, who are experiencing homelessness, who are at risk of homelessness, or who are exiting homelessness. As noted in the report, the environmental scan is the beginning of our journey to discuss and support the City's social planning needs and further analysis will be required to develop an overall response and potential strategies that can be broken down further into manageable components to foster incremental multi-stakeholder response efforts that are measured and do not overburden existing City resources.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

A budget of \$50,000 has been requested in the 2022 Financial Plan to retain social planning consulting services to assist the City to take support the City's social planning needs.

ALTERNATIVES:

None provided.

Respectfully Submitted,



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

1. Environmental Scan – Langley City’s Priority Needs for Vulnerable Populations