



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor Schaffer and Councillors**

Subject **Homelessness Action Table**

Report #:

File #:

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

Doc #:

Date: February 2, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT City Council endorse the Terms of Reference for the Homelessness Action Table.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from City Council to endorse the Terms of Reference for the Homelessness Action Table.

POLICY:

Creation of Task Groups Guiding Principles Policy No: CO-59

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

The City completed the Homelessness Strategic Plan in 2016 in collaboration with Provincial ministries, the Fraser Health Authority, the Township of Langley, and social services agencies in the community.

A couple of strategies identified under the focus area of Collaboration and Capacity Building include:



- Form a Homelessness Action Table to create a forum dedicated to discussing homelessness issues in the Langleys and make recommendations on actions aligned with the Homelessness Strategic Plan.
- Create a partnership between the City of Langley and the Township of Langley to identify projects of mutual interest and key areas of collaboration in addressing and preventing homelessness.

To this end, City Council is proposing to establish a Homelessness Action Table to achieve the objectives of these two strategies. Homelessness has continued to grow in our communities over the years. Limited affordable and suitable housing; poverty; circumstantial situations; unemployment and financial hurdles; mental health issues; addiction; family violence and breakdown are some of the contributing pathways into homelessness. It is our hope that the Homelessness Action Table will be able to implement a large number of the strategies identified in the Homelessness Strategic Plan, as well as track and report on progress and advocate for projects and funding to address and prevent homelessness. The Homelessness Action Table, in effect, replaces the Langley Homelessness Steering Committee that was disbanded after 2015.

The City has requested the Township of Langley to appoint one member of Township of Langley Council to join us at the table. Township of Langley Council has resolved to decline the request for a joint partnership with the City of Langley at this time, as Metro Vancouver is currently working on a regional plan and has a Task Force in place. Therefore, they would like to wait for those results before proceeding with an additional plan.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable at this time.

ALTERNATIVES:

That the Terms of Reference for the Homelessness Action Table be amended.

That City Council declines to create the Homelessness Action Table.



Respectfully Submitted,



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment: Terms of Reference, Homelessness Action Table

