

Mayor's Task Force on Housing Report Update



MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON HOUSING



FINAL REPORT

MAY 24, 2022

April 2023



Mayor's Task Force on Housing

- The Mayor's Task Force on Housing was created in April 2021 as a direct priority on Council's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan.
- The intent of the Mayor's Task Force on Housing was to provide evidence-informed and action-oriented observations and recommendations to Council to increase the supply of quality housing for residents in the City of Cornwall.
- In addition, it was tasked with presenting a coordinated and practical set of recommendations designed to guide Council as it makes decisions to address Cornwall's available housing supply.
- The members of the Taskforce, which included key stakeholders, met on a monthly basis for a one-year period.

Staff Working Group

- Upon the approval of council, a working group was created to review and action recommendations found with the Mayor Task Force report.
- The working group is comprised of the following members:
 - Mellissa Morgan, General Manager of Human Services & Long-Term Care
 - Lisa Smith, Manager; Housing Services
 - Katherine Wells, Coordinator; Strategic Planning
 - Charles Bray, Chief Building Official
 - Lindsay Parisien, Supervisor; Planning Services
- The working group meets on a monthly basis.

Completed/Ongoing Recommendations

Housing Frist Approach

Recommendation (s)	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the existing list of municipal surplus land holdings to determine if they can be used for affordable housing (completed November 2022)• Identify available lands and opportunity for possible builds along transit routes to minimize parking requirements (completed November 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Struck the A Home Collaborative for the purpose of co-identifying available land with municipal partners in the region• Land has been identified and analyzed by municipal partners.• Requests to protect suitable properties for development will be made in April – June• Access to transit was considered in this process

Completed/Ongoing Recommendations

Community Builds

Recommendation (s)

Define the City's role within the scope of external purpose-built developments.
(Ongoing)

Engage Federal government representatives in discussions regarding funding opportunities for purpose-built units for immigrants and refugees
(completed November 2022)

Action Taken

- It was determined that the City will support external purpose built developments but not lead them.
- Initial discussions have been held with the MP and the development of Federal Lands. Ongoing discussions will continue as we create our long-terms housing development plan.

Completed/Ongoing Recommendations

Community Builds

Recommendation (s)	Action Taken
Non-profits and churches are typically leaders in emergency housing. Define how the City can take a role in assisting their efforts. (ongoing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City is tasked with the development of a By Name List that will address planning and support for those who are homeless (non-profits and Churches will be engaged in that work).• The A HOME collaborative includes the United Way as an advisory member for issues related to homelessness and housing planning from the stakeholder perspective.• It was determined that the City could consider supporting external purpose built developments but not lead them.

Completed/Ongoing Recommendations

Funding	
Recommendation (s)	Action Taken
Review affordable housing exemptions within the development charge by-law. (completed April 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• These exemptions have been addressed through Bill 23 and through our specialized development programs like heart of the city.
Begin a conversation with St. Lawrence College surrounding a collaborative project with Housing Services. (Ongoing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have met with St. Lawrence College to discuss opportunities to collaborate on possible future housing development• The College was very interested and will pursue additional information from students to support further conversations

Completed/Ongoing Recommendations

Funding	
Recommendation (s)	Action Taken
Staff will provide a report to Council on the multi-res tax rate (completed March 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This was discussed at length during 2023 budget deliberations.

Next Steps - In Development

Housing First

- Administration will complete a review and report to Council on various housing by-law options that can preserve existing rental stock, **(May 2023)**

Parking

- Eliminate parking minimum for multi-unit residential projects by providing alternate solutions. This would increase the opportunity for the marketplace to offer parking spaces and alternatives that best meet the maximum needs of the future residential developments. **(May 2023)**

Non-residential Conversion

- Promote residential additions to underutilized commercial land as a way to increase density in the right places and reach housing goals. **(May 2023)**
- Proactively approach commercial building owners of these properties for potential conversion. **(May 2023)**

Next Steps - In Development

Community Builds

- Promote Tiny Homes as appropriate infill solutions and encourage developers to embark on a tiny homes pilot project. **(May 2023)**

Additional Recommendations

- Encourage builders to create multi-generational family units (in suitable locations) which have been a positive housing solution in other communities. **(May 2023)**
- Promote a residential “development information guide” that would accompany land use planning development related applications. **(May 2023)**
- Encourage employer participation with developers and builders on the topic of short-term housing for workers. **(May 2023)**