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## Report 2024-077

**Report Title:** 2023 Housing and Homelessness Annual Report

**Committee Name:** Social Services

**Committee Meeting Date:** June 5, 2024

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**Approved by:** Jennifer Moore, CAO

**Council Meeting Date:** June 19, 2024

**Strategic Plan Priorities:**  Innovate for Service Excellence  
 Ignite Economic Opportunity  
 Foster a Thriving Community  
 Propel Sustainable Growth  
 Champion a Vibrant Future

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### Recommendation

“That the Social Services Committee, having considered Report 2024-077 ‘2023 Housing and Homelessness Annual Report’, recommend that County Council direct staff to share a copy of this report with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and post the report on the County website for viewing by the general public.”

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## **Purpose**

To provide the 2023 Housing and Homelessness Annual Report on the County's 10 years Housing and Homelessness Plan.

## **Background**

The *Housing Services Act, 2011* (HSA), requires Northumberland County, in its role as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM), to have a 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, and to report annually on the progress made towards objectives in the Plan. The attached 2023 Annual Report highlights key accomplishments under several of the objectives while looking forward to ongoing priorities to continue meeting agreed upon objectives.

The 2019-2029 Housing and Homelessness Plan establishes six strategies required to support improved outcomes in the housing and homelessness systems, these strategies include:

1. Increase Affordable Housing Options
2. Implement Coordinated Access for Housing and Support Services
3. Support Housing Stability
4. Increase Supportive Housing and Supports
5. Build a Diverse Housing Supply
6. Optimize the Existing Housing Stock

These six strategies are well aligned with Northumberland County's Affordable Housing Strategy, Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan and the Community Housing Master Plan. This annual report will begin to deep dive into each one of these strategies and provide concrete actions that have been taken, present data (where available), identify gaps where future attention will be required.

According to the *HSA* all, Housing and Homelessness Plans are required to be updated every five years, however the Ministry has requested that Service Managers pause this work until future direction is given.

## **Consultations**

Consultations completed internally with Community and Social Services, Communications and Finance staff.

## **Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations**

The Housing Services Act, 2011 requires that this public report be completed annually.

## **Discussion / Options**

Input into this report was provided by staff in the Community and Social Services and Finance Departments, along with referencing work of external community agencies.

As outlined in the report, key accomplishments from 2023 include:

- Completed the first phase of the Elgin Park redevelopment, realizing 20 units of affordable and market rental housing.
- Acquired 123 King Street East, Colborne Ontario to preserve 22 units of affordable housing in Cramahe.

- Created a new standalone homelessness information website for Northumberland. Worked with community partners and people with lived and living experience to test the content and the functionality. Included regular updates for both agencies and people interested in homelessness information.
- Created Housing Stability Program, which provides monthly rent subsidies to households experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness access permanent housing.
- Continued the expansion and implementation of the Made in Northumberland Rent Supplement Program, to support households on the centralized waitlist and those at risk of homelessness obtain affordable and/or subsidized housing.

The report also outlines key goals for 2024, including:

- Create a Community Liaison Committee to support the emergency shelter.
- Expansion and more focus on our outreach team supporting at-risk or homeless clients in all municipalities.
- Continue to work with the Homelessness Leadership Table to enhance wrap around services.
- Move forward with the renovations and retrofitting of 310 Division St to create a low barrier shelter system that will serve more of the community's needs.
- Continue pre-construction work, including net zero feasibility studies for the construction at 473 Ontario Street with project partners.
- Continue working with member municipalities and other sources to develop a land bank of shovel-ready and funding-ready projects.
- Ensure that NCHC assets are well maintained through a thorough capital repair program.

### **Financial Impact**

N/A

### **Member Municipality Impacts**

Member municipalities will be provided with a copy of the report for information.

### **Conclusion / Outcomes**

It is recommended that County Council direct staff to share the report with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and make it available to the public through the County website.

### **Attachments**

1. Report 2024-077 ATTACH 1 '2023 Housing and Homelessness Annual Report'