

Staff Report



Development Services Department

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REPORT TO: Committee of the Whole

DATE OF MEETING: August 28, 2023

SUBMITTED BY: Garrett Stevenson, Interim Director of Planning, 519-741-2200 ext. 7070

PREPARED BY: Natalie Goss, Manager, Policy & Research, 519-741-2200 ext. 7648
Garrett Stevenson, Interim Director of Planning, 519-741-2200 ext. 7070

WARD(S) INVOLVED: ALL

DATE OF REPORT: August 18, 2023

REPORT NO.: DSD-2023-366

SUBJECT: Supplemental Report to DSD-2023-295 Housing for All Strategy
Lived Expertise Working Group

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council further defer consideration of next steps for the Lived Expertise Working Group to the September 25, 2023, Council meeting to allow additional time for staff to dialogue with the Social Development Center Waterloo Region (SDCWR), the Lived Expertise Working Group; and,

That the City continue to provide funding to the SDCWR in accordance with the approved agreement for the month of September 2023.

REPORT:

On June 26, 2023, Council considered report DSD-2023-295 which sought Council support for the continued funding and work of the Lived Expertise Working Group. At this meeting Council resolved:

“That the following motion be deferred to the August 28, 2023, Council meeting to allow for an opportunity to further discuss the partnership with the Lived Expertise Working Group (LEWG) and Social Development Centre Waterloo Region (SDCWR) about the preferred approach to establish a City driven Lived Experience Working Group, and during this two month deferral, the City will continue to providing funding to the SDCWR in accordance with the previously approved agreement:

- *That the \$30,000 already committed to the operation of the Lived Expertise Working Group (LEWG) for year 2 from Kitchener’s operating budget be allocated as outlined in DSD-2023-295; and,*

*** This information is available in accessible formats upon request. ***
Please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994 for assistance.

- *That the City transfer \$23,600 to the SDCWR (Social Development Centre Waterloo Region) for year 2 costs in accordance with the Purchase of Services Agreement signed June 13, 2022; and further,*
- *That staff, together with the facilitator of the Lived Expertise Working Group, report back to Council at the conclusion of the pilot program in 2024 on next steps for the LEWG.”*

Throughout July and August, City staff and staff from the Social Development Center Waterloo Region (SDCWR) had conversations about opportunities to continue to work together in the space of lived expertise on housing related matters within Kitchener’s jurisdiction. Additionally, over these same months staff from Kitchener’s Planning Division continued to attend and participate in dialogue with the Lived Expertise Working Group (LEWG) to collaboratively develop a work plan for year 2 focused on implementation of Kitchener’s Housing for All Housing Strategy.

While progress has been made through these conversations, additional time is needed to confirm a work plan for year 2. Planning staff will continue to attend and participate in dialogue with the LEWG throughout August and September and will report back to Council at the September 25, 2023, Council meeting.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report supports A Caring community through the City’s commitment to recognize that stable, secure and affordable housing is a human right. Further, that the City will use equity, diversity and inclusion principles to realize the right to housing.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Capital Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Capital Budget.

Operating Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Operating Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City’s website with the agenda in advance of the council / committee meeting.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

- [DSD-20-214 Housing for All – City of Kitchener Housing Strategy](#)
- [COR-2022-104](#) – Housing for All Program Update – 2022 Year in Review
- [DSD-2023-295](#) – Housing for All Strategy Lived Expertise Working Group – First Year Review and Rental Housing, Eviction and Displacement Study Update

APPROVED BY: Justin Readman, General Manager, Development Services