



**Subject:** *Municipal Housing Strategy - Housing Working Group Extension*  
**To:** CAO for Planning Advisory Committee, October 8, 2024  
**Date Prepared:** September 27, 2024  
**Related Motions:** PAC23(60) November, C23(383), PAC23(66) December and C23(402)  
**Prepared by:** Rachel Gilbert, Manager of Planning  
**Approved by:** John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development

---

### Summary

At their November 2023 meeting, Council approved the formation of a Municipal Housing Working Group to aid in the development of a Municipal Housing Strategy. The membership term for the Working Group runs to October 2024. An extension to this term is requested to enable the remainder topics on the workplan to be discussed and for the Working Group to review the final Housing Strategy Plan.

### Financial Impact Statement

There is sufficient money in the 2024-25 planning budget to cover honorariums for the extension of the term for the Housing Working Group.

### Recommendation

Approve the extension of the Housing Working Group term to enable the completion of the workplan for the Housing Strategy

### Recommended Motion

Planning Advisory Committee recommends to Council that Council:

- approve the extension of the term for the Housing Working Group to enable the completion of the workplan for the Housing Strategy.

---

## Background

In November 2023 Council approved the establishment of a Municipal Housing Working Group to aid in developing a Municipal Housing Strategy. In December 2023 the Terms of Reference for the Housing Working Group was approved by Council. The Working Group consists of the following members:

- 3 Councillors - Councillors Garden-Cole (chair), Moussa, and MacPhee (vice-chair)
- 2 members representing the East Hants Development Community - Andrew Bone and Brad Ross
- 2 members representing the Non-Profit Housing Community - Paul Mombourquette (CCOA) and Linda Wood (HEART Society).
- 1 member representing the East Hants Chamber of Commerce - Tracy Williams
- 1 public member at large - Jacob White
- Director of Planning & Development - Non-Voting
- 1 staff member representing Economic & Business Development - Non-Voting

The Terms of Reference indicates that the membership will run to October 2024 and states that if the Working Group is required to meet beyond this date, Council may appoint/reappoint members as deemed necessary.

A copy of the workplan has been attached as an appendix to this report. Several topics have been discussed over the past several months but there are still topics identified on the workplan which have not been discussed, including:

- Homelessness
- Municipal position on Provincial & Federal responsibility/programs
- Incentives
- Energy Poverty
- Non-market Housing

Following the completion of these discussions the Working Group will also then need to review the entire draft plan.

Staff are requesting an extension to the term of the Housing Working Group to enable them to complete the review of the remaining items on the workplan and also to review the final draft plan.

### STRATEGIC ALIGNEMENT

One of the Key Strategies from the Strategic Plan is Strong Community. Housing opportunities for everyone will help to create a strong community.

### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The legislative authority to develop planning policies and land use regulations is set out in the Municipal Government Act.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is sufficient money in the 2024-25 planning budget to cover honorariums for the extension of the public members term.

---

## Alternatives

- 1) Approve the extension of the term for the Housing Working Group to a specific date.

---

## Attachments

Appendix A - Housing Working Group Workplan.

Appendix B - Municipal Housing Working Group Terms of Reference.