



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CDR# 2023049

Date: April 17, 2023

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

SUBMITTED BY: Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living

DATE: April 17, 2023

SUBJECT: Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee Strategic Plan

ORIGIN: In 2020 the Municipalities of Oxford, Amherst and Cumberland County formed a joint committee to address issues of poverty in the community. The committee was tasked to develop a strategic plan.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: MGA Citizen advisory committees 26 The council may establish, by policy, citizen advisory committees which shall advise the council, as directed by the council. 1998, c. 18, s. 26.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council provide feedback to the Intermunicipal Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee in conjunction with other Municipal units review.

BACKGROUND: The Intermunicipal Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee is comprised of three municipal units and community representatives from across the county. Each community member brings a unique but important voice to the table on issues of poverty. This knowledge in addition to applicable research has formed the basis of this strategic plan.

DISCUSSION: In April 2022 the Community Well Being Manager began researching poverty as it relates to Cumberland County utilizing documents such as the 2021 Nova Scotia Child and Family poverty report card, Statistics Canada and the NS living wages report. It has become evident that over 30% of children in Cumberland County are living at or below the poverty line. Further to this it was identified early on that housing and homelessness were key issues for the area and as well many area youth are falling between the cracks of society and lacking resources to help them. The Committee focused the strategic document around three pillars of food insecurity, housing and homelessness and youth outreach and education. A strategic plan was developed itemizing key actionable goals that the three municipalities could work on collectively or individually moving forward. This plan is a living document further to ongoing consultation review, updates and report back to the Councils and communities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Adoption of the strategy will have future financial implications as the actions are operationalized. This will be reviewed by senior management and factored into operational budgets as we move forward.





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SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS: The Intermunicipal Poverty Reduction Strategy will allow all residents to have more opportunities to thrive in our community thereby enhancing the quality of life for everyone.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS: None

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Community engagement and collaboration will be ongoing. It is not the intent of this document that work will be done in a silo but rather building on relationships with key stakeholders. This will broaden the reach of our efforts and enhance the support of existing organizations who are doing great work in this area.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1 Accept the document as is.
- 2 Refer back to committee for further revisions

ATTACHMENTS: Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan Document

Report prepared by:

Report and Financial approved by:

