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**Date:** October 18, 2021  
**To:** Mayor and Council  
**Author:** John Norton, Chief Administrative Officer  
**RE:** Approval of Community Safety and Well-being Plan  
**Report No.:** 2021-06

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## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

That Essex County Council **BE AUTHORIZED** to approve the Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and any subsequent reports on behalf of the Council of the Town of Kingsville.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2019, the Province of Ontario amended the Police Services Act to mandate every municipality to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. After discussions amongst the regional CAO's proposing a regional CSWB Plan, Report S198/2019 and CAO-2019-11 was brought to the City of Windsor (City) and Essex County (County) Councils respectively, requesting authorization to engage the County of Essex and its municipalities to develop a Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (RCSWB). The City and County Councils authorized a project team comprised of staff from the City and County administrations to "bring the regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan to City Council and Essex County Council in sufficient time to be considered prior to the Provincial government's deadline of January 1, 2021." The Province established this deadline prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic, the project was paused on March 18, 2020, with core team members redeployed to manage COVID-related emergencies within their respective organizations.

During this pause, the Province passed the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Protection Act, 2020, which granted an extension to the CSWB deadline past January 1, 2021, to an undetermined date. At the meeting of City Council on May 4, 2020, correspondence from the Office of the Solicitor General was received informing Council of the change in the deadline and that it would be working with the Association of

Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the City of Toronto to determine a new submission date. The correspondence was noted and filed.

The RCSWB project officially resumed on June 1, 2020. A project update was provided to City and County Councils describing key actions taken during the project pause, including the completion and submission of letters to AMO and Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) advocating for an amended deadline of January 1, 2022. Elected officials from a number of municipalities across Ontario were also advocating for the January 2022 deadline.

In November 2020, City and County Councils received a further project update, which included revised timelines and methodologies due to the pandemic.

On December 24, 2020, the Ministry of the Solicitor General issued correspondence to Ontario municipalities indicating that the new CSWB Plan submission deadline is July 1, 2021.

On February 1, 2021, City Council directed Administration to forward a letter to the Solicitor General advising that whereas the new CSWB submission deadline of July 1, 2021 significantly constrains the ability to engage in fulsome and meaningful community consultation, the City of Windsor will prepare an interim report for submission by July 1, 2021, along with a final report by December 31, 2021. City Council further requested that the Solicitor General review the imposed deadline. Essex County Council likewise adopted a similar resolution.

On June 25, 2021, a letter and attachment package consisting of the interim report, as well as City and County Council Decision letters, was submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

In June 2021, all lower-tier municipalities of the County of Essex received a project update presentation. Each municipal council was provided with an opportunity to offer input on local and regional priorities and reviewed the results of public consultations conducted within each municipality.

## **DISCUSSION**

Over the course of the project, the project team conducted over 100 hours of consultation through 91 formal community, sector and municipal engagements with approximately 1,075 participants. These engagements included residents, elected officials, municipal CAOs, police service boards, community committees, community organizations, sector leaders and priority population groups. In conjunction with 840 online and print survey respondents, a total of 1,915 community members contributed to the identification, contextualization and prioritization of the Plan's areas of focus.

Through a process of prioritization that considered a review of local data, survey results, and qualitative engagements, the following four regional areas of focus were solidified: Good Governance and Data, Engaged and Safe Communities, Mental Health and Substance Use Supports and Financial Security and Economic Equity. Goals, initiatives, activities and metrics were established for each area of focus. In total, 8 goals, 17 initiatives and 48 activities were established as part of the Plan.

As directed by Essex County Council, in connection with all lower-tier municipal councils, the regional Plan contains community priorities for each municipality that includes a review of local data, an analysis of public consultation data, and an identification of local priority risk and protective factors. For the full list of goals, initiatives and activities, and each community profile, please review Appendix A.

In alignment with the joint City-County approach taken to identify regional priorities and strategies and the 2019 City and County Council directives, it is recommended that the County of Essex be authorized to approve the final written report and any subsequent reports. In discussion with staff from the Ministry of the Solicitor General, the delegation of authority for planning and implementation of CSWB plans to an upper-tier municipality is in line with approval approaches undertaken by other Ontario municipalities engaging in joint plans.

In acknowledgement of the logistical challenges of a multi-council approval process, ministry staff have indicated that the delegation of approval authority to the County or upper tier would be sufficient if key stipulations are satisfied. Those stipulations are:

- a) all lower tier municipalities were involved in the planning process,
- b) the delegation of authority is provided by council resolution, and
- c) the Plan is published and available at all partnering municipalities.

Currently, the project team is in a position to meet all stipulations and further, intends to make the regional plan available through each area municipality and other locations as appropriate.

As the Plan focuses on regional initiatives that are primarily at the prevention and social development areas of intervention, many approaches align with the duties and responsibilities of the County of Essex and the City of Windsor in its role as the Service System Manager for Housing Services, Ontario Works and Children's Services. Furthermore, this coincides neatly with the southwest region role of the Ontario Provincial Police as a police services provider for many municipalities in the County.

## **RISK ANALYSIS**

There is a risk associated with not achieving the December 2021 deadline stated to the Ministry of the Solicitor General. In order to mitigate that risk, the primary components of the Plan - its goals, initiatives, activities and community profiles - are being presented to Council in advance of the submission of the final written report that will constitute the Plan itself.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The development of the Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and staff, including the Project Manager and StrategyCorp, Inc., have been funded through contributions of \$200,000 each from the City of Windsor and County of Essex.

The development of Community Safety and Well-Being Plans was provincially mandated. Pending formal adoption of the plans and further direction from the Province, there is an expectation that plans may require review on a yet-to-be determined cycle. Further, implementation of aspects of the RCSWBP will require sufficient resources and may incur additional costs, which will be brought before City, County and lower tier councils at the appropriate time.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

Regional Chief Administrative Officers

Jelena Payne, Health and Human Services Commissioner, City of Windsor

Mary Birch, Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk, County of Essex

Leonardo Gil, Project Manager, City of Windsor

## **CONCLUSION**

In discussion with staff from the Ministry of the Solicitor General, the delegation of authority for planning and implementation of CSWB plans to an upper-tier municipality is in line with approval approaches undertaken by other Ontario municipalities engaging in joint plans. Therefore, Administration, in consultation with regional CAO's, recommends that the County of Essex be authorized to approve the final written report and any subsequent reports with respect to CSWB plans.

*John Norton*

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John Norton

**Chief Administrative Officer**

## **LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

To promote a safe community.

### **Link to Council 2021-2022 Priorities**

- ☐ COVID-19 and the health and safety of the community
- ☐ Customer Service: Training, Technology, Staff, Review Standards/Level of service

- ☐ Housing: Affordability (lot sizes, developer incentives, second dwellings, density, etc.)
- ☐ Greenhouse: lights & dark sky, odours (site plan compliance, bylaws, other tools)
- ☐ Programming Increase: Youth and Seniors
- ☐ A development plan for Downtown Kingsville / Main Street
- ☐ Financial savings: Schools closings, Migration Hall
- ☐ Economic Development: strengthen tourism/hospitality
- ☐ COVID - economic recovery
- ☐ Communications: Strategy – Policy (social media), Website refresh and other tools, Public engagement
- ☐ Housing: Migrant Worker Housing – Inspections (Building/Fire), regulate, reduce, or increase
- ☐ Committees / Boards: Review and Report
- ☐ Policy Update: Procedural Bylaw
- ☐ Economic Development: diversify the economy, create local jobs, industrial, Cottam
- ☐ Infrastructure (non-Municipal): Union Water expansion & governance
- ☐ Infrastructure (Municipal): Asset Management Plan update, the infrastructure funding deficit
- ☐ No direct link to Council priorities