



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Chief Administrative Officer

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Margaret Misek-Evans, Chief Administrative Officer

Date to Council: October 26, 2021

Report Number: CAO-2021-17

Subject: Approval of Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Report CAO-2021-17 entitled “Approval of Community Safety and Well-Being Plan” regarding the development of the Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, **be received;**

And that Council **authorize** Essex County Council to approve the Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and any subsequent reports as required, on behalf of the Town of Tecumseh.

Background

In 2019, the Provincial government amended the *Police Services Act* to mandate every municipality to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan. After discussions amongst the regional Chief Administrative Officers proposing a regional CSWB Plan, Report S198/2019 and CAO-2019-11 was brought to 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). City and County Councils authorized a project team comprised of staff from City and County Administration 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.

Tecumseh Council received a presentation from the CSWB Project Manager, at the Special Council Meeting held on October 27, 2020. On behalf of the Regional CSWB Plan Systems Leadership Table and Project Team, the Project Manager provided an overview of the CSWB Plan framework, status of development and key project updates, including the upcoming consultation and engagement approach.

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.

At the February 9, 2021 RCM, Tecumseh Council received [Report CAO-2021-04](#) respecting a CSWB Plan update and public consultation opportunities.

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 review the results of public consultations conducted within each municipality.

Comments

Over the course of the project, the project team conducted over 100 hours of meaningful consultation through 91 formal community, sector and municipal engagements with approximately 1,075 participants. These engagements included residents, elected officials, municipal CAOs, police services 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 RCSWB 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 RCSWB Plan.

As directed by Essex County Council, in connection with all lower-tier municipal councils, the regional CSWB 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. The full list of goals, initiatives and activities, and each community profile, are outlined in the RCSWB Plan and highlighted during the Project Manager's delegation, presented this evening to Council.

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 so long as 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 CSWB 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 CSWB Plan available through each area municipality and other locations as appropriate.

As the CSWB 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 mediate that risk, the primary components of the CSWB Plan - its goals, initiatives, activities and community profiles - are being presented to Council in advance of the submission of the final written report.

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

Financial Implications

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

Should the Town incur ancillary and minor costs resulting from the CSWB Plan development, the expenses will be covered through the Professional Services line item of the CAO budget.

Commitment of staff time for the development of the CSWB Plan is being provided primarily through the CAO's Office, Corporate Services, Fire & Rescue Services and the OPP.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐

Social Media ☐

News Release ☐

Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Christina Hebert, BA (Hons), MA, Dipl. M.A.
Manager Committee & Community Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
None	None