

August 26, 2021

New housing and homelessness governance model proposed

1. What is the new housing governance model?

At the direction of City Council, Administration is proposing a new housing governance model. Specifically, the new model calls for the dissolution of the existing Community Housing and Advisory Board in favour of a new committee of Council. The new committee, the Collaborative Community Housing and Homelessness Integration Committee (CCHHIC), would have full delegated decision making authority related to planning, research, evaluation and fund administration.

The purpose of the new Collaborative Community Housing and Homelessness Integration Committee (CCHHIC) is to act as the federally required Community Advisory Board (CAB) and decision making authority for The City of Red Deer for the roles of:

- Planning, research and evaluation
- Coordination of asset management and development, and homelessness support services
- Fund administration for Community Based Organization (CBO), and Community Entity (CE) – Designated, and Community Entity – Indigenous (as requested) through an established Sub Committee

2. Why is a new housing governance model being proposed?

In October 2019, the Community Housing and Homelessness Integrated Plan (CHHIP) was received by Council. Driven by a Council Ad Hoc Committee, the overall goal of the CHHIP was to develop a strategic and innovative housing plan in support of the community's housing goals and to advance City Council's strategic goal of a socially responsible city. During deliberations, Council directed Administration to return with an integrated housing and homelessness governance recommendation by Q2 2020. While the work was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a new proposed integration model has been developed and will be presented to Council for consideration.

The proposed new governance model achieves the following:

- It upholds the Community Housing and Homelessness Integrated Plan (CHHIP) Ad-Hoc Committee's successful approach to engaging Red Deer stakeholders in a collaborative model, while effectively utilizing community expertise. It is reflective of the extensive community and stakeholder consultation and input received.
- It establishes a model that empowers the community, while balancing oversight and Council connection and contribution.
 - It provides for Council representation at the table;
 - Ensures everyone has a voice by ensuring decisions are made by consensus;
 - It engages with the community by identifying internal or external resources (sub-committees) who may offer a specific expertise to inform the Committee's decision-making processes;
 - It creates space for collaboration with other bodies of work that interact with the housing system such as mental health, addictions and poverty prevention to collaborate with one another for the community's best interest.

- Specific envisioned sub-committees include: Funded service providers, Lived/Living Experience groups, and an Indigenous working group (as directed by UAVS)
 - It provides a lever in critical/emergency situations for Council to take back delegated decision making in the best interest of the overall community;
 - It coordinates and aligns asset management and development work in service to the identified needs in the CHHIP.
- It addresses any conflict of interest concerns for fund adjudication by establishing a Fund Adjudication Committee with predetermined membership criteria that mitigates potential, real or perceived conflicts of interest.
- It observes and honours the priority for self-determination of funding for Indigenous peoples, which is actively being explored by the Federal Government in Red Deer and nationally.
- It incorporates and is reflective of current innovations in governance.

3. Will there be any impact to services?

No, there will be no interruption to services. If the new governance model is approved by Council, a transition plan will be developed to manage the shift from CHAB to the Collaborative Community Housing and Homelessness Integration Committee.

4. What is the timeline for implementing the new governance model?

If approved by Council, the broad next steps are:

- CHAB would be dissolved by the end of 2021. Notifications to member of CHAB have occurred.
- Establish the new committee within Legislative requirements utilizing the already approved terms of reference principles
 - Recruit new members for the Collaborative Community Housing and Homelessness Integration Committee, through a Council nomination process – September/October 2021.
- Support transition of CHAB to the new Committee – November 2021
- Upon support from other levels of government, delegate full fund adjudication authority to this new Committee – November 2021.

For more information, contact:

Corporate Communications
The City of Red Deer