

Report to Council



Date: March 9, 2020
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Healthy Housing Strategy Update
Department: Policy & Planning

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive for information, the report from Policy & Planning dated March 9, 2020, with respect to the Healthy Housing Strategy Update.

Purpose:

To provide Council an update on the Healthy Housing Strategy implementation actions.

Background:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an update on progress of the Healthy Housing Strategy implementation actions.

The Healthy Housing Strategy was endorsed by Council on June 25, 2018 and is a 5-year plan that aims to address the community's most pressing housing issues. The Healthy Housing Strategy was developed in alignment with the Journey Home Strategy.

The Healthy Housing Strategy identified 19 actions within four key directions:

1. Promote and protect rental housing;
2. Improve housing affordability and reduce barriers for affordable housing;
3. Build the right supply; and
4. Strengthen partnerships and align investments.

The Healthy Housing Strategy actions is on track for implementation. The table below shows the status of the 19 actions slated for implementation:

Complete	Ongoing	In Progress	Not Started
6	2	9	2

Actions within the Healthy Housing Strategy are being implemented by both the City of Kelowna and in partnership with Interior Health. A progress summary of the individual actions is provided in Appendix A: Status of Healthy Housing Strategy Actions.

Highlights include the following:

- City of Kelowna hosted the first Annual Housing Workshop on February 21, 2019 with approximately 80 participants representing various industry stakeholders;
- The Short-Term Rental Bylaw was approved by Council on April 2, 2019. These regulations aim to balance the interest of having short-term rentals in our community with measures that protect long-term rentals and limit impacts on neighboring properties.
- The Energy Step Code Implementation Strategy for Part 9 Buildings was completed and approved by Council on May 6, 2019;
- The updates to the Rental Housing Grants Program and the Rental Tax Exemption Program were completed and approved by Council on August 12th, 2019; and
- A city-wide Rental Housing Inventory was created for the first time and approved by Council on August 26, 2019.

Conclusion:

In 2020, several additional housing actions will be finalized including a few highlights below:

- Development of an Affordable Housing Land Acquisition Strategy;
- Development of a Community Energy Retrofit Strategy; and
- Policy and zoning changes to permit a greater variety of housing forms and tenures.

The Healthy Housing Strategy is one tool of many being used to make positive changes in Kelowna’s housing system. With continued partnerships and cooperation across all levels of government, public and private sectors, community partners and residents, impactful progress can be made towards achieving the community’s housing objectives.

Internal Circulation:

Development Planning
Communications
Strategic Investments
Active Living & Culture

Considerations applicable to this report:

Existing Policy: The Healthy Housing Strategy was endorsed by Council on June 25, 2018.

Submitted by:

M. Kam, Acting Manager, Long Range Policy & Planning

Approved for inclusion:



Danielle Noble-Brandt, Policy & Planning Department Manager

Appendix A: Status of Healthy Housing Strategy Actions