



Meeting Date: February 19, 2020

Submitted by: Michael Di Lullo, CAO

Report No: CAO-08-2020

Subject: Community Wellbeing Safety Plan

Recommendation:

THAT Report re: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan be received for information.

Purpose:

To advise Council of the municipality's partnership with the County and other lower-tier municipalities in Middlesex County to develop a Community Safety and Well-being Plan as required under the Police Services Act, 2019.

Background:

Municipalities in Ontario are legislatively required (Police Services Act, 2019) to develop and adopt community safety and well-being plans (CSWP), working in partnership with a multi-sectoral advisory committee comprised of representation from the police service board and other local service providers in health/mental health, education, community/social services, and children/youth services.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General has given municipalities until January 1, 2021 to prepare and adopt their CSWP. A report was provided to County Council on January 28, 2020 providing an overview of the strategy that will commence for a Community Safety and Well Being Plan.

As identified in the [Ministry's Community Safety and Well Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario](#), a CSWP involves identifying risks and proactively developing and implementing evidence-based strategies and programs to address local priorities related to crime and complex social issues.

The goal of the CSWP is to support and promote sustainable communities where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, access to services and where individuals and families are able to meet their education, health care, food, housing, income, social and cultural needs.

As per the Police Services Act, a community safety and well-being plan is required to:

Identify risk factors in the municipality or First Nation, including, without limitation, systemic discrimination and other social factors that contribute to crime, victimization, addiction, drug overdose and suicide and any other prescribed risk factors;

- identify which risk factors the municipality or First Nation will treat as a priority to reduce;
- identify strategies to reduce the prioritized risk factors, including providing new services, changing existing services, improving the integration of existing services or coordinating existing services in a different way;
- set out measurable outcomes that the strategies are intended to produce;
- address any other issues that may be prescribed; and
- contain any other information that may be prescribed.

In addition, there are a number of important and mandatory components of this planning process, including:

- A municipality that prepares a community safety and well-being plan shall establish an advisory committee (250 (1))
- ...a group of municipalities that are jointly preparing a community safety and well-being plan shall jointly establish and consult with a single advisory committee (250 (2))
- The advisory committee must, at a minimum, consist of the following members:
 - i. A local health integration network for a geographic area in which the municipality is located, as determined under the Local Health System Integration Act, 2006, or
 - ii. An entity that provides services to improve the physical or mental health of individuals in the community or communities.
 - iii. A person who represents an entity that provides educational services in the municipality.
 - iv. A person who represents an entity that provides community or social services in the municipality, if there is such an entity.
 - v. A person who represents an entity that provides community or social services to children or youth in the municipality, if there is such an entity.
 - vi. A person who represents an entity that provides custodial services to children or youth in the municipality, if there is such an entity.
 - vii. An employee of the municipality or a member of the municipal council.
 - viii. A person who represents the police service board or, if there is no police service board, the commander of the detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police that provides policing in the area or his or her delegate.
 - ix. A chief of police of a police service that provides policing in the area or his or her delegate.
 - x. Any other person prescribed by the Minister (250 (3)).
- In preparing a community safety and well-being plan, the municipality or municipalities shall,

- (a) consult with the advisory committee;
- (b) consult with members of the public, including youth, individuals who have received or are receiving mental health or addictions services, members of racialized groups and of First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities, in the municipality or municipalities and, in the case of a joint plan with a First Nation, in the First Nation reserve;
- (c) consult with community organizations, including First Nation, Inuit and Métis organizations and community organizations that represent youth or members of racialized groups, in the municipality or municipalities and, in the case of a joint plan with a First Nation, in the First Nation reserve; and
- (d) comply with any consultation requirements that may be prescribed by the Minister.
- (e) to identify local priority risks and implement evidence-based collaborative strategies to address these risks and increase protective factors that will make the community safer and healthier for all (250 (7)).

The Province provided a community safety and well-being planning framework to guide municipalities, First Nations communities, and their partners as they develop their local plans. Municipalities have the flexibility to engage in community safety and well-being planning individually, or in partnership with neighbouring communities to develop a joint plan. A report was approved at the County of Middlesex meeting of January 28, 2020 outlining the intent of moving forward with a Community Safety and Well-being Plan on a collaborative front.

Analysis:

As noted in the background, the local municipalities within Middlesex County must prepare and adopt, by resolution, a Community Safety and Well-being Plan by January 1, 2021. There will be significant involvement from various stakeholders throughout this process, as well, the consultation efforts required will be significant. To effectively coordinate a project such as this requires dedicated resources from a firm or individual who is well-connected within the community, and who can engage with the various stakeholders while understanding the opportunities and challenges that each bring to the table.

The CAO has worked in partnership with the County and has been meeting regularly to discuss municipal modernization opportunities and challenges in an effort to collaborate and better align priorities to find capacity, reduce overall costs and to develop efficient and effective means to delivering municipal services. One of the initiatives identified through these discussions is the development of a County-wide Community Safety and Well-being Plan. The CSWP will include participation from the following local municipalities.

Proposed Methodology

The plan that is developed will build on the levels of intervention for community safety and well-being that already exist. It will identify overall community priorities and will also reflect the uniqueness of each local municipality, building in sufficient flexibility to allow each municipality to comply in a manner that best reflects its community, resources, and existing working relationships with other stakeholders. The plan will also ensure that the planning guidelines and legislated requirements are met.

This collaborative planning process will:

- Identify risk factors in the community, such as systemic discrimination and other social factors that contribute to crime, victimization, addiction, drug overdose, suicide, etc.
- Identify risk factors the community will treat as a priority
- Identify strategies to reduce risk factors, including providing new services, changing existing services, improving integration and coordinating existing services in a different way
- Set out measurable outcomes, including the development of a logic model for each identified risk or problem that will be addressed, and a performance measurement framework

There are four proposed phases to the work program to develop the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

- Step 1 – Project Planning / Onboarding
- Step 2 – Research and Asset Mapping
- Step 3 – Community Engagement
- Step 4 – Plan Development

The methodology and timelines will be further refined with input from the Project Steering Committee and Advisory Committee.

The proposed methodology will be viewed as organic in nature, meaning it will be assessed regularly to ensure that the methods, tools, and techniques being used are fostering engagement throughout the project. The Advisory Committee and Project Steering Committee will assist in reflecting on response rates, methodology used, and suggesting proposed adjustments to the engagement approach.

Meetings with the Project Steering Committee will be held on a monthly basis. Monthly status reports about the project, including activities, identified risks/issues and potential solutions, schedule, budget, and the creation of a project GANTT chart will also be

provided. This regular reporting will ensure that the project remains on schedule and within budget.

The County will take the lead and coordinate the collaborative approach of the development of the CSWP.

Proposed Consultant

The County is taking the lead on this project and there is consensus from the working group to enter into an agreement with Jennifer Kirkham of Mischievous Cat Productions Inc. to complete the work required to coordinate, engage, and develop a Community Safety and Well-being Plan on behalf of the County and the local municipalities.

Jennifer Kirkham has vast expertise in municipal government which includes experience working through similar projects and roles. Jennifer also has direct experience working with Middlesex County on a number of projects such as the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan, Library Board Strategic Planning, Community Transportation Grant Program and Middlesex Children's Services Network.

Financial Implications:

The project amount is \$34,500 (HST not included). The cost of this project will be divided equally among the local municipalities which agree to be included in the joint collaboration. There is room in the 2020 budget for this cost to participate.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- 3b. Quality of Life: Harmonizing community services across the municipality.
- 4c. Community & Neighbourhood Preservation: Respecting the unique rural-urban traditions of Middlesex Centre.
- 5e. Operational Excellence: Forging partnerships with other levels of government.

Attachments:

N/A