

DATE: December 31, 2020

TO: COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Chair, Select Committee on a Safe, Clean, and Inclusive Community

SUBJECT: Select Committee on a Safe, Clean, and Inclusive Community Report and Recommendations

ATTACHMENT(S): Select Committee on a Safe, Clean, and Inclusive Community Report to Council, January 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

1. RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated December 31, 2020, from the Chair of the Select Committee on a Safe, Clean, and Inclusive Community, titled "Select Committee on a Safe, Clean, and Inclusive Community Report and Recommendations"; and
2. APPROVES the recommendations of the Select Committee on a Safe, Clean and Inclusive Community, titled "City of Prince George – Key Commitments", in the attachment to the report dated December 31, 2020, from the Chair of the Select Committee on a Safe, Clean, and Inclusive Community, titled " Select Committee on a Safe, Clean, and Inclusive Community Report and Recommendations."

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the opportunity to receive for information the Select Committee on a Safe, Clean, and Inclusive Community's Report for Council Consideration, and to approve four recommendations specific to the City's jurisdiction, that will contribute to the community safety, cleanliness, and inclusion.

BACKGROUND:

On December 2, 2019, Prince George City Council hosted a public consultation to allow representatives of the business community and members of the public to share their concerns and suggestions on a variety of community social issues. The meeting concluded with a motion, unanimously supported by Council, to establish a Select Committee on a Safe, Clean and Inclusive Community. The Committee, comprised of fourteen members, was formed to advise Council and City staff on priorities and strategies related to key issues and work required to be done to address social issues throughout Prince George, with a focus on the downtown core.

The Committee met three times prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. At its third meeting, the Committee agreed that it would be helpful to engage a meeting facilitator to assist the Committee to fulfill

its Terms of Reference. Urban Matters was engaged but due to COVID-19 Public Health Office orders and guidelines, further Committee meetings were suspended. This required the development of an adapted approach. As such, telephone interviews with members of the Committee were conducted to explore experiences, roles, and opportunities to support the Committee's mandate.

Urban Matters identified three consistent themes that emerged from the interview process including the need for advocacy, service coordination and integration, and improved communication. Recommendations regarding the City's role in addressing these themes were incorporated in a draft strategy document that was prepared to guide discussion during a half-day workshop attended by all Committee members.

The workshop, conducted on September 15, 2020, included a panel presentation with representatives from Northern Health, BC Housing, the RCMP, the City of Prince George, and the business community who provided an overview of response efforts to date. Following the panel presentation, workshop participants engaged in a series of activities to consider the proposed recommendations and determine actions that would need to be undertaken to support advocacy, service coordination and integration, and improved communication.

A follow-up virtual workshop was held on December 8, 2020 to review the proposed strategy prepared by Urban Matters, and to identify commitments that all partners could make to support the strategy. Based on the feedback collected, amendments to the draft strategy were made and a formal meeting was scheduled for January 5, 2021 to provide Committee members with the opportunity to consider approval of the amended strategy.

The attached "Report for Council Consideration, January 2021" is a detailed account of committee deliberations that included attention to an analysis, from diverse perspectives, of the current situation as well as acknowledgement of significant confusion regarding the different roles and responsibilities of each level of government in relation to complex social issues. In addition to reviewing City of Prince George initiatives to improve conditions, the Committee identified three focus areas for further City action including Advocacy, Coordination, and a Service Enhancements Review. Four specific recommendations, titled "City of Prince George Key Commitments" align with these focus areas and include:

- **Facilitate a Coordinated Advocacy Process;**
- **Advance the BC Urban Mayors' Caucus 2020 Blueprint for British Columbia's Urban Future;**
- **Lead the Establishment of a Downtown Public Safety Office and;**
- **Evaluate and Reprioritize the Allocation of the Safe, Clean and Inclusive Service Enhancement Package**

The Committee also acknowledged that the City's key commitments were inextricably linked to the engagement and commitment of its partners including the RCMP, Northern Health, BC Housing, the business and non-profit sectors, as well as individuals. A number of aligned partner commitments are outlined in the report. Also noted in the report is the necessity for partner organizations and community representatives to use their networks and channels to communicate and share information about efforts to ensure a safe, clean and inclusive community.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Council identified the enhancement of safety and security throughout Prince George, with an emphasis on downtown as a focus area.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Council is asked to receive for information the Select Committee on a Safe, Clean, and Inclusive Community's Report for Council Consideration, and to approve the four recommendations identified as

“City of Prince George Key Commitments” that will contribute to community safety, cleanliness, and inclusion.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Mayor Lyn Hall, Chair
Select Committee on a Safe, Clean, and Inclusive Community

Prepared By: Chris Bone, Senior Manager of Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, Acting City Manager

Meeting Date: 2021/01/11