



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Mayor Zebian and Members of Council

Submitted by: Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Date: May 12, 2026

Subject: Councillor Nominations and Appointment for the Coordinated Regional Homelessness Engagement Model

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act (MGA) – Sections 24-27, Standing, special and advisory committees; Vacancy on Boards, Commissions and Committees; Citizen Advisory Committees; and Community Committees.

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND

Property ☐	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☒	Social ☒	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☒
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On February 24, 2026, Council received a recommendation report from a citizen member of the Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Communities Committee related to Strategic Action #23 – Homelessness Engagement and Strategy Development under the *Equity, Anti-Racism, and Accessibility Strategy Plan* approved March 25, 2025. Strategic Action #23 emphasizes collaboration with community, municipal, and provincial partners, including individuals with lived experience, to support coordinated homelessness responses.

Council discussion concluded that while the intent aligned with Strategic Action #23, the Municipality was not positioned to directly lead a homelessness strategy. A revised motion was adopted directing staff to explore and report on options to facilitate a coordinated, community-led homelessness engagement model, clearly defining the municipal role and resource implications before establishing any formal advisory committee or municipal strategy.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REMME AND DEPUTY MAYOR FRANCIS THAT COUNCIL DIRECT STAFF TO EXPLORE AND REPORT BACK ON OPTIONS TO FACILITATE A COORDINATED REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS ENGAGEMENT MODEL, INCLUDING COLLABORATION WITH EXISTING COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES, ALIGNED WITH STRATEGIC ACTION #23, WHILE CLEARLY DEFINING MUNICIPAL ROLE AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS PRIOR TO ESTABLISHING A FORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OR MUNICIPAL STRATEGY.

This motion established Council's expectation that the focus be on facilitation, coordination, and clarification of the Municipality's role rather than direct leadership of a homelessness strategy.

DISCUSSION

In response, staff presented a report on April 14, 2026 identifying existing community supports and service providers, outlining gaps, and reviewing approaches used by neighbouring municipalities. The report confirmed that effective models often succeed without direct municipal leadership and highlighted the Municipality's most appropriate role as facilitative and supportive, bringing partners together, improving coordination and communication, supporting advocacy for provincial funding, and avoiding duplication of services. The report emphasized leveraging existing community expertise and focusing on practical, locally driven solutions.

Council further agreed that progress was best achieved through collaboration and information-sharing, including reviewing national and local examples such as initiatives in Kings County. Staff were also asked to confirm the status and focus of Housing Support meetings.

To strengthen communication between Council and community partners, the following motions were carried at Committee of the Whole and again at the April 28, 2026 Council meeting to *appoint a Councillor Liaison to participate in the West Hants Housing Coalition or any future coordinated homelessness engagement table*. Due to not all members of Council being present, nominations and voting for the liaison position were deferred to the next Council meeting to allow full participation

NEXT STEPS

- The Mayor will call for nominations three times (Councillors may nominate themselves and nominations do not need to be seconded).
- After the third and final call for nominations, the Mayor will declare nominations closed.
- If only one Councillor was nominated and accepted the nomination, that Councillor is declared the seat.
- If there is more than one nominee, each of the nominees will be provided an opportunity to speak and Councillors will fill the seat by secret ballot.
- Once the seat has been filled, a motion will be made to destroy the ballots.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associational with this report. Financial implications outside of this report have been included with the Operational budget and any financial implications outside of that will be considered through a recommendation report to Council.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose not to approve the direction or may direct staff to explore alternative approaches or locations. However, this is not the recommendation as the direction to date has led us down this path.

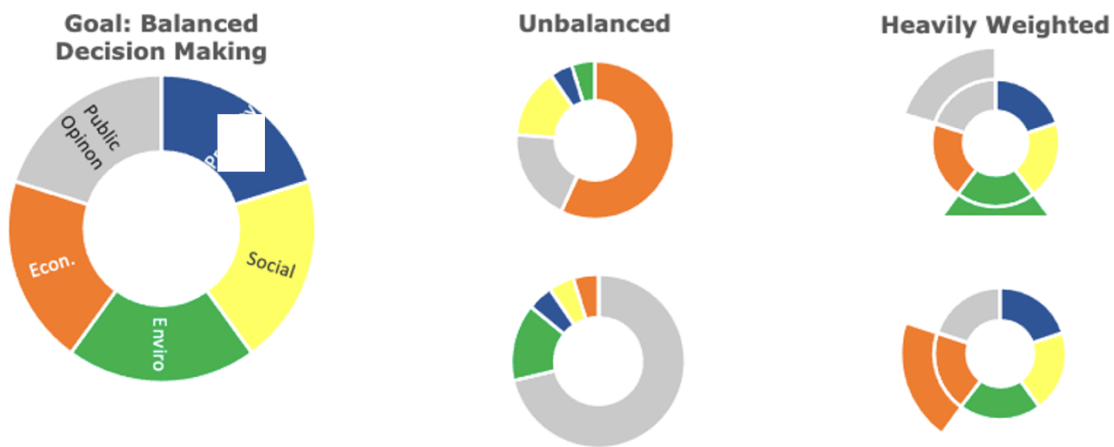
ATTACHMENTS

None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

As highlighted in the report, a Council appointment is required for the West Hants Housing Coalition Committee. An alternate would also be recommended. The Council and Committee Meeting and Procedural Policy should also be amended to reflect the Council appointment to this external committee.

Council has been provided with a reference taken from the Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy , Appendix C “Decision Making by Council and Committee of the Whole” as a reminder of the principles highlighted for good decision making.



Report Prepared by: _____
Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Report Reviewed by: _____
Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Report Approved by:  _____
Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer