



Date: 2020-12-16

From: Brittany Drury, Clerk

Subject Grey Bruce Community Safety and Well Being Plan

Report LEG2020-28

Recommendation

That the Grey Bruce Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is hereby approved, and

That Council of the Township of Georgian Bluffs hereby endorses and supports the recommended priorities and actions contained therein, and

That By-law 2020-137, being a by-law to adopt the Grey Bruce Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, be enacted.

Background

Changes to the *Police Services Act, 1990*, (Act) which came into effect on January 1, 2019, require that the council of each municipality prepare and by resolution, adopt a community safety and well-being plan (Section 143.1). As stated in the Act, the plan shall:

- Identify risk factors in the municipality
- Identify which risk factors the municipality will treat as a priority
- Identify strategies to reduce the prioritized risk factors
- Set out measurable outcomes that the strategies are intended to produce
- Address any other issues that may be prescribed.

Section 143 (2) of the Act provides the opportunity for a joint plan, created in consultation with other municipal councils and mandated organizations. In September of 2019, Grey and Bruce Counties, along with their corresponding lower-tier municipalities and various community organizations, began the process of formulating a joint plan, to

be applied throughout the region. The Township, specifically the Clerk, has been involved in discussions regarding the plan, since the commencement of deliberations in September of 2019.

The Act further requires that each municipality establish an advisory committee to facilitate preparation of the plan, and where a joint plan is established, a joint committee shall be created. The Grey Bruce Joint Advisory Committee held its first meeting on September 27, 2019 and has since grown to include 56 participating entities, including all lower-tier municipalities, with the exception of the Municipality of Meaford, Public Health, First Nations Band members, OPP, Board of Education, social and family services throughout the region, and etc. Grey and Bruce Counties outsourced coordination and administration of the plan and advisory committee to an external consultant, Sarah Cowley. Ms. Cowley and a sub-committee of the members of the advisory committee, entitled the steering committee, have led and facilitated discussions and formulation of the Plan over the course of the past year.

Analysis

At their meeting on December 9, 2020, Committee of the Whole received a presentation, led by Sarah Cowley, regarding the Plan. As discussed in their presentation, the Plan is now in its final state, and has received ratification by both Grey and Bruce Counties. To meet their requirements under the Act, lower tier Councils must also adopt the Plan.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, scheduled community engagement to gather feedback regarding the Plan was slightly more limited than originally anticipated. Public open houses and information sessions were cancelled due to gathering restrictions, however the public was invited to participate in an online survey to identify risk factors both within the region and their home municipality. Ms. Cowley and her team gathered feedback collected in the survey and identified five priority risk areas throughout the Grey Bruce region, including:

- Addictions / Substance Use
- Mental Health
- Crime Prevention
- Housing and Homelessness
- Poverty and Income

Each of these priority risk areas are specifically identified and spoken to in the Plan. To address the identified risk areas and ensure the Plan is properly monitored, the Advisory Committee will continue to meet on a regular basis throughout 2021 to 2025.

The Committee will further create an action table to establish a plan to address the five priority risk areas identified above.

Financial Impact

Grey County contributed \$55,000.00 on behalf of the Grey municipalities to facilitate the hiring of the coordinator, develop the plan and accompanying appendices, and for associated administrative costs. At their meeting on November 12, 2020, Grey County approved funding an additional \$55,000.00, for inclusion in the 2021 Budget, to cover planning costs throughout 2021. At this time, there are no anticipated costs to the Township.

Strategic Priorities

Approval of the recommendation as included in this report achieves the 5th Strategic Goal, Deliver Effective and Cost-Efficient Services, as defined in the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.

Conclusion

The *Police Services Act, 1990* requires that each municipality create and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. It is recommended that the Plan, as appended to this report, be approved.

Appendix 1 – Grey Bruce Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Respectfully Submitted: Brittany Drury, Clerk

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	LEG2020-28 - Community Safety and Well Being Plan.docx
Attachments:	- CSWBP Municipalities of Bruce and Grey.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Dec 9, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Kassandra Rocca, Interim CAO