

Community Services Report to  
Community Development Committee  
2023 October 31

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
CD2023-0909

## Council Advisory Committee on Housing

---

### PURPOSE

This report provides a recommendation to create a formalized Council Advisory Committee on Housing, following an exploration of models related to housing commissions and structures that support equitable and effective housing outcomes.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

The Housing and Affordability Task Force Notice of Motion (EC2022-0638) item 1b directed Administration to conduct “an exploration of models for the creation of a “Housing Security Commission” to work in collaboration with The City, supportive housing providers, non-market housing providers, Calgary Housing Company, attainable homeownership providers, emergency shelters, the provincial and federal governments, to increase equitable outcomes for Calgarians seeking safe, affordable, and supportive housing”.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Community Development Committee recommend that Council:

1. Approve the establishment of a Council Advisory Committee on Housing.
2. Direct Administration to return to Council with the required bylaw to establish a Council Advisory Committee on Housing that incorporates the proposed Terms of Reference (Attachment 3) for approval no later than Q2 2024.

### CITY MANAGER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

GM Katie Black fully supports a Council Advisory Committee on Housing that will provide a real-time pulse on the housing crisis and ongoing advice and recommendations related to housing affordability.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Administration explored a wide range of models that could be considered for a "Housing Security Commission". Administration's findings concluded that an Advisory Committee on Housing (herein referred to as "Committee" or "Advisory Committee on Housing") would best achieve the intended outcomes considering The City's overall jurisdiction for housing and the *Boards, Commissions and Committees* policy.
- The Committee would comprise public members who have market and non-market housing experience as well as Calgarians with lived experience.
- The Committee's mandate would be to provide Council with 1) advice and recommendations on Council-approved housing initiatives; 2) independent monitoring and feedback on The City's progress towards addressing housing affordability; and 3) support for collaboration and advocacy efforts to other orders of government.
- The creation of a Council Committee requires an approved bylaw. Administration recommends the bylaw be brought back to Council by Q2 2024 for approval so that recruitment for the Committee can be initiated as part of The City's regular process in the fall of 2024.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

## **Council Advisory Committee on Housing**

---

### **DISCUSSION**

Calgary is in a housing crisis. Responding to this crisis requires sustained and focused collaboration and monitoring. Administration explored six different models that could serve the intended purpose of a “Housing Security Commission”. Considering the existing jurisdiction, The City has related to housing, and within the bounds of existing Council policy, Administration recommends the creation of an Advisory Committee on Housing to sustain Council’s involvement in addressing Calgary’s housing crisis and to deliver the following:

1. Provide advice and recommendations to Council on previously approved Council initiatives which address the housing crisis.
2. Independently monitor and provide feedback to Council on The City’s progress towards addressing housing affordability.
3. Support collaboration and advocacy between City Administration, Council, other orders of government, professionals within the housing sector and Calgarians.

The analysis, summarized in Attachment 2, concluded that an Advisory Committee on Housing would be best suited to achieve the outcomes of the Notice of Motion. The key determinants for recommending this model over others were that an Advisory Committee on Housing:

- Falls within the jurisdictional powers of municipal governments within Alberta.
- Permits the collection of advice and recommendations while permitting Council to retain strategic decision-making responsibilities.
- Aligns with The City’s existing Boards, Commissions and Committees structure, requiring no investment for establishing a new organizational entity and without new financial investment.
- Provides the greatest flexibility for selecting members from a broad range of lived experience and professional expertise.
- Creates the opportunity for collaboration across the sector and community to improve housing outcomes for Calgarians.

Though the Committee will have a role to support collaboration and advocacy, it would not have a span of control or authority over the housing sector or Administration’s role in advancing the Housing Strategy. Administration would continue to engage with the sector to encourage and facilitate collaboration and would work collaboratively with the Committee to advance this work. The creation of a Council committee is complementary to Administration’s ongoing commitment to housing as a Corporate priority and will ensure continued focus on this key issue.

The proposed Terms of Reference in Attachment 3 would define the mandate and recommended membership for an Advisory Committee on Housing and can inform drafting of the final bylaw, should Council approve this report.

Community Services Report to  
Community Development Committee  
2023 October 31

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
CD2023-0909

## **Council Advisory Committee on Housing**

---

### **EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken        | <input type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

N/A

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Social**

Boards, commissions, and committees strengthen our community through diverse representation and by providing Calgarians the opportunity to take part in our city's future direction. An Advisory Committee on Housing will bring together voices from across the housing sector and from Calgarians with lived experience to increase equitable outcomes for Calgarians seeking safe, affordable, and supportive housing.

#### **Environmental**

The creation of a Committee has no negative environmental impacts. The Committee may make recommendations to Council that result in environmental impacts. These will be taken into consideration and assessed as required.

#### **Economic**

The Committee's advice and recommendations will influence decision-making to address Calgary's housing crisis, which in turn will have a positive impact on Calgary's economic growth and prosperity.

#### **Service and Financial Implications**

#### **Existing operating funding - base**

The estimated annual cost to administer and support a Council committee is \$100,000, most of which is attributed to Administration resources to support meeting proceedings, responding to Committee requests, and conducting research. The costs related to hosting the regular Committee meetings and logistics are expected to be under \$10,000 a year. Administration resources and budget required can be funded from Housing Solutions' previously approved budget.

### **RISK**

Clarity of roles and responsibilities, provided in the Proposed Terms of Reference will ensure that risks related to governance, scope and decision making are managed.

Risks related to the committee member recruitment process will be mitigated by following the Council policy on *Governance and Appointments of Board, Commissions and Committees* (CP2016-03).

Community Services Report to  
Community Development Committee  
2023 October 31

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
CD2023-0909

**Council Advisory Committee on Housing**

---

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. Summary of Model Analysis
3. Council Advisory Committee on Housing Proposed Terms of Reference
4. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Katie Black	Community Services	Approve
Jill Floen	Law, Legislative Services and Security	Inform
Debra Hamilton	Planning and Development Services	Inform
Michael Thompson	Infrastructure Services	Inform

Author: Housing Solutions