

COUNCIL REPORT – OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR

Edmonton

CITY'S RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS AUDIT

RECOMMENDATION

That the June 17, 2022, Office of the City Auditor report OCA01289, be received for information.

Report Purpose

Information only.

Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the City's Response to Homelessness Audit.

REPORT

In April 2022, there were an estimated 2,765 individuals in Edmonton experiencing homelessness. Homeward Trust is the not-for-profit organization designated by the federal government, the provincial government and the City of Edmonton (City) to lead Edmonton's plan to end homelessness.

The City performs a variety of roles and activities to respond to homelessness. These include funding Homeward Trust to further the strategy to end homelessness, funding agencies to provide outreach services and directly providing services that include activating the extreme weather response, creating temporary washroom and shelter accommodations and responding to encampments on public land. The City also funds affordable housing and supportive housing, while also advocating for funding for affordable housing and homelessness supports from other levels of government.

Our audit objective was to determine if the City of Edmonton coordinates its internal homelessness activities to achieve its intended outcomes. This audit did not review Homeward Trust, its processes, operations or funding from external sources.

We found that the City does not have a corporate-wide plan that defines the strategy and integrates and coordinates the activities that support its internal response to homelessness. The City also does not have a single dedicated position or body that is accountable and has the proper authorities to

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coordinate this work. We also found that the City does not have an evaluation process to assess the overall impact that its internal response to homelessness activities are having on Edmonton's homelessness population.

We made the following recommendations to the City Manager:

- Develop a corporate-wide homelessness plan that defines the strategy and integrates and coordinates the City's internal response to homelessness.
- Assign accountability for the delivery of the corporate-wide homelessness plan and its activities.
- Develop performance measures and evaluate whether the corporate-wide homelessness plan is achieving the desired results.

POLICY

Bylaw 16097, Audit Committee Bylaw, Section 14(d) states that, "Committee will review all reports from the City Auditor dealing with completed audit projects."

ATTACHMENT

1. City's Response to Homelessness Audit