

Update: Housing

Initiative Title:	Housing
City Council Lead(s):	Councillor Henderson and Councillor Krushell
Department Lead(s):	Walter Trocenko, Sustainable Development

Objective:

Housing provides stability, both economically and socially, and is integral to quality of life. The City of Edmonton is committed to providing housing that contributes to positive community outcomes and individual well-being. Affordable, safe and suitable housing for individuals and families is integral to supporting the lives of all Edmontonians.

In 2005, Edmonton City Council approved the Cornerstones, Edmonton's Plan for Affordable Housing. Cornerstones I (2006-2010) achieved significant success by achieving more than 3,000 long-term affordable and transitional housing units. In 2011, Edmonton City Council approved the Cornerstones II Affordable Housing Program (2012-2016) with a five-year target of 2500 affordable housing units and 2500 inclusive market housing units.

Key Outcomes, Projects or Activities and their Status as of May 2013:

This initiative is supported through the mandate and staff of the Housing and Economic Sustainability Branch of the Sustainable Development Department.

- In April 2012, the report Cornerstones II: Edmonton's Plan for Affordable Housing 2012-2016 was brought to Executive Committee. This report outlined strategic investments for the implementation of Cornerstones II, and provided an update on the Cornerstones II programs.
- On June 27, 2012, the report Consultation with High Stressed Communities was brought forward to Executive Committee. This report outlined 12 key actions, including the non-market housing investment pause, a three-year pause on City funding for new affordable housing projects in five neighbourhoods: Alberta Avenue, Central McDougall, Eastwood, McCauley, and Queen Mary Park. The objective of the investment pause is to allow for a period of trust building between the five neighbourhoods and the City, and to allow residents to focus on positive participation in support of revitalization initiatives.
- On June 27, 2012 Administration brought forward the report Easier Implementation and Cornerstones Linkages – Third Bedroom Incentives in Multi-Story Buildings, a report that described quick and simple options to deliver or encourage more three-bedroom housing units in Edmonton.
- On July 11, 2012 the report Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Programs – Status Update was brought to Executive Committee. This report provided an update on discussions with the Province on the discontinued Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP). The report also outlined the Housing Opportunities

Program for Edmonton (HOPE), a two-year pilot project intended to replace RRAP. Beyond the two-year term, program funding for HOPE is contingent on additional funding from the Provincial budget.

- On July 11, 2012 the report 2010-2013 Council Initiatives – Terms of Reference – Housing was brought to Executive Committee. This report outlined the terms of reference for the Housing initiative, including objectives, key outcomes, activities, and future steps.
- Throughout 2012, Administration worked to develop and implement Cornerstones II programs, including the Housing Opportunities Program for Edmonton and the Secondary Suites programs.
- Worked closely with Current Planning to support the development of the Residential Compliance Team, a multidisciplinary team designed to coordinate the efforts of various municipal agencies related to licensing, regulation and enforcement of boarding houses, group homes, and secondary suites.
- In October 2012, the report “Impacts of Exemptions from the Proposed Moratorium on Non-market Housing” was brought to City Council. This report assessed the impacts of exempting specific housing types from the non-market housing investment pause.
- In November 2012, the report Edmonton Area Community Plan on Housing and Supports: 2011-2015 was brought to Executive Committee. This report summarized the Edmonton Area Community Plan on Housing and Supports.

Future Steps:

- Work closely with Corporate Properties to advance surplus school site residential redevelopment.
- Work closely with Urban Planning and the Environment, including the Jasper Place ARP team, to complete the Jasper Place Housing Assessment by November 2013.
- Initiate Neighbourhood-Based Housing Assessments in five neighbourhoods: Alberta Avenue, Central McDougall, Eastwood, McCauley, and Queen Mary Park.
- Provide a detailed implementation plan for Cornerstones II, including opportunities for accelerated program implementation.
- Review program delivery opportunities under the Cornerstones II Secondary Suites program, with an emphasis on adding a specific developer-focused grant program.
- Development of the “Housing Policy Framework” to rationalise numerous existing housing policies and directives. This report will be brought to Executive Committee in the third quarter of 2013.
- Bring forth a follow-up report to council regarding the non-market housing investment pause.

Housing continues to be an important issue in Edmonton. Administration remains committed to expanding the supply of long-term affordable housing units in the city.