

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2013

Item 6, Report No. 5, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on February 19, 2013.

6 HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING BOARD OF YORK REGION'S PRESENTATION – MAKING ENDS MEET IN YORK REGION

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the presentation by Regional Councillor John Taylor, Town of Newmarket on behalf of the Human Services Planning Board of York Region, and Communication C6, presentation material entitled "Human Services Planning Board of York Region" be received; and
- 2) That the following report of the Commissioner of Community Services, dated February 5, 2013, be received.

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommends:

- 1) That the presentation from the Human Services Planning Board of York Region with respect to the *Making Ends Meet in York Region* initiative be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

Not applicable.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact associated with this report.

Communications Plan

There is no specific communication plan associated with this report; however, the Human Services Planning Board of York Region continues to use various means of keeping the public informed on *Making Ends Meet in York Region* initiative including, but not limited to, presentations, consultation and direct communication with key stakeholders, a dedicated web site and social media.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive a presentation from the Human Services Planning Board of York Region on *Making Ends Meet in York Region* initiative.

Background - Analysis and Options

In 2010, York Region Council approved the establishment of the Human Services Planning Board with a mandate to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of human services in York Region through capacity building with the York Region human services sector and through collaborative advocacy. The Board is a York Region led multi-sector collaborative of human service organizations/agencies/networks, community leaders and government advisor and resource members and is co-chaired by Regional Councillor John Taylor, Town of Newmarket and Susan LaRosa, past Director of Education, York Catholic District School Board.

The Board sees the trend of growing economic vulnerability as a threat to the long term health of York Region's population and communities and in partnership with the broader community plans

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to take action to curb this trend. Leveraging the many strengths of York Region, the Board believes that the *Making Ends Meet in York Region* initiative will serve to advance a legacy of healthy, complete and inclusive communities.

The process of identifying the area of focus for the Board started with a broader examination of York Region through a social determinant of health framework. The customized list of social determinants includes the following economic and social conditions that shape the health of individuals and communities:

- Income
- Housing
- Education
- Early childhood development
- Employment and training
- Access to health
- Social and community services/supports
- Food security
- Inclusiveness and integration

Under each area, the Board members looked at the current state in order to come to an agreement where they would focus their attention. They identified *Making Ends Meet in York Region* as the priority area of focus for their work. The financial struggle of low and moderate income residents in York Region is the challenge that resonated with each Board member.

In May of 2012, the Board presented to York Region Council their Year in Review for 2011, outlining their accomplishments and future plans. The Board identified eight Collective Actions to achieve desired outcomes based on their analysis. The actions will require facilitating and coordinating new partnerships and outreach efforts to build awareness in the community about the importance of helping low and moderate income families and individuals make ends meet. The Collective Actions are:

1. Host a Housing Affordability Discussion
2. Housing Hub Model
3. Host a Social Assistance Review Commission Options Paper Discussion
4. Mentoring Partnership Program
5. Convening Public Education and Awareness – Meeting House Series
6. Funder Discussions
7. Financial Literacy Tools
8. Fair Access

York Region Council endorsed the presentation and requested that the Board offer to present to local municipal Committee or Council meetings regarding the *Making Ends Meet in York Region* initiative to explore opportunities for local municipal involvement in the Collective Actions. To date, presentations have been held in Town of Georgina, Town of East Gwillimbury, Township of King and Town of Richmond Hill. In addition to the City of Vaughan, future presentations have been confirmed for the City of Markham and Town of Newmarket. The presentations provide a background on the Human Services, Planning Board, the *Making Ends Meet in York Region* initiative and focus on Housing and Fair Access actions.

Additional information on the *Making Ends Meet in York Region* initiative is available at www.york.ca/hspb.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

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Regional Implications

There are no regional implications as a result of this report.

Conclusion

The Human Services Planning Board of York Region sees the trend of growing economic vulnerability as a threat to the long term health of York Region's population and communities and in partnership with the broader community, plans to take action to curb this trend. Leveraging the many strengths of York Region, the Board believes that the *Making Ends Meet in York Region* initiative will serve to advance a legacy of healthy, complete and inclusive communities. The presentation outlines collaborative solutions to the unique and challenging needs facing current and future York Region residents.

Attachments

1. Human Services Planning Board of York Region's Presentation entitled *Making Ends Meet in York Region*

Report Prepared By

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(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)