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**Item No. 2**  
**Community Planning and Economic  
Development Standing Committee**  
**January 16, 2020**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Community Planning and  
Economic Development Standing Committee

Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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John Traves Q.C., Director, Legal, Municipal Clerk & External Affairs

Original Signed

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Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** September 27, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Indicators for Building Poverty Solutions Report

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

**January 29, 2019** Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee (CPED)

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Blackburn THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Continue to work collaboratively with United Way Halifax on the development and implementation of anti-poverty solutions for the municipality;
2. Include a strategic response to the United Way report "Building poverty solutions - Ideas for Action" in the development of a Social Policy Lens;
3. Incorporate updates on federal/provincial poverty reduction action plans and basic income projects when reporting on the Social policy lens and poverty reduction solutions; and
4. That staff develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with the United Way and report on them twice a year to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.

## **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

HRM Charter, S.N.S. 2008. C. 39

34(3) The Council shall provide direction on the administration, plans, policies and programs of the Municipality to the Chief Administrative Officer.

There is no specific legislative authority for the adoption of indicators for the poverty reduction strategy; however, depending on the proposed content and format, the Halifax Regional Municipality may find legislative authority for specific proposals throughout the HRM Charter, including in Part III (Powers), Part IV (Finance), Part VII (By-laws), Part VIII (Planning & Development), Part XII (Streets and Highways), Part XV (Dangerous Or Unsightly Premises).

## **BACKGROUND**

In April 2017, HRM Regional Council directed staff to collaborate with United Way Halifax, and other partners, on the development of an anti-poverty strategy for the municipality. United Way Halifax and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff engaged with urban, suburban and rural HRM communities. Focus groups and online resident surveys were used to solicit input. The result of this was a community report that identified 129 ideas for action.

In January 2019, HRM staff prepared a report for CPED to outline the municipality's proposed approach to implementing the ideas for action identified in the Building Poverty Solutions report. The report for CPED categorized the 129 actions as (1) in scope; (2) in progress; or (3) out of scope. Of the 129 ideas for action identified in the Poverty Solutions Report, 47 (36.4%) were in progress, 25 (19.4%) were in scope, and 57 (44.2%) were out of scope.

The ideas for action have far-reaching implications for all orders of government and for all sectors. While all the action items are considered important, the municipality cannot address these action items on its own. The issues are complex and require all levels of government and community partners working together to address and implement the action items. To ensure the root causes of poverty are addressed, implementation and monitoring of the action items must be done in a strategic manner.

## **DISCUSSION**

Since January 2019, United Way Halifax and HRM have continued to use the Poverty Solutions Report to inform conversations with key stakeholders and to develop partnerships. Work is proceeding on several of the actions that were categorized as "in progress" in the staff report to CPED, and some have already been completed. While all the recommended action items in the Building Poverty Solutions Report are considered important to address poverty, areas of focus need to be determined.

To allow for the successful implementation of the Poverty Solutions Report, United Way Halifax and HRM have been engaged in discussion to determine a strategy for moving forward. During this same period, HRM has been developing a Social Policy Framework. The Social Policy Framework will identify areas of focus for the municipality in social development. The United Way Building Poverty Solutions Report will be used initially to guide the implementation of the Social Policy Framework. It is anticipated that internally the Social Development Outcome Team will assist with this process.

Pending Regional Council endorsement of the Social Policy Framework, the first phase will be to inventory and align existing work within each of the focus areas and define common indicators of progress. Rather than develop KPIs for all action items in the Building Poverty Solutions Report, common indicators will be developed in consultation with the United Way Halifax, along with other community partners that are

involved. This will ensure all partners are working collaboratively to help address the root causes of complex social issues, such as poverty.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications for 2019/2020.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Meetings with the United Way Halifax have been held on a consistent basis since the development of the Building Poverty Solutions Report. Extensive community engagement was done during the development of the Building Poverty Solutions Report, which will be used to inform all future work.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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